BCPROGRESSBOARD

MEASURING BC'S PERFORMANCE — REACHING NORTH STAR 2010

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730 - 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1 Phone 604 775 1664 Fax 604 844 1820 www.bcprogressboard.com

BC Progress Board

730 – 999 Canada Place
Vancouver BC V6C 3E1

P. 604-775-1664 / F. 604-844-1820
E. ideas@bcprogressboard.com

Executive Summary

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

This two volume third annual benchmarking report, *Measuring BC's Performance: Reaching North Star 2010*, confirms the leadership benchmarks established in the Progress Board's first report. The Board believes that British Columbia – despite continuing challenges – has all the attributes to be a leader in Canada by 2010.

This year's two-volume report marks the most comprehensive effort to benchmark BC's economic and social performance externally (relative to other jurisdictions) and internally (urban versus rural and inter-regionally) on key outcome performance indicators.

In this volume, the Progress Board expands upon the regional benchmarking work contained in the first and second annual reports.

Population and Agglomeration Trends

This volume is prefaced by an examination of broad patterns of population change in BC during the 1990s.

The 1990s saw significant rural to urban population shifts in BC. Between 1992 and 1997, BC experienced positive – though uneven – population growth throughout the province, ranging from highs of 15.7% in the Thompson-Okanagan and 15.6% in the Lower Mainland to a low of 3.9% in the North Coast.

In 2003, about 51% of BC's population resided in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), with the balance residing in "Regional BC". Beyond broader, rural-urban population shifts in the 1990s, fully five out of eight development regions experienced absolute population declines between 1997 and 2002. Populations grew in the Lower Mainland-Southwest by 7.3%; Vancouver Island by 0.6%; and, Thompson-Okanagan by 2.4%. The latest (1997-2002) trends occur in the face a number of key factors:

- Other jurisdictions similar in size and industrial composition to BC are also faced with "Agglomeration" trends, i.e., the tendency for population to cluster and grow in urban centers;
- Declining performance of BC's traditional economic drivers – forestry, mining and fishing – along with the shift to "services" has contributed to rural population outflows in many reaches of the province;
- The interdependence of the province's inland and northern regions and the Lower Mainland economies continues to be strong; and,
- Reversing population declines and lagging economic performance may not be possible in some areas of BC, but concerted focus on establishing a vision for local economic futures by building on local strengths will help.

Benchmarking Broad Regional and Urban Performance

The Progress Board continues to broadly benchmark Regional and Urban Performance on 17 indicators covering economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society.

On indicators of ***economy, innovation and education***, urban British Columbia (defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area - CMA) outperforms regional BC (outside the Lower Mainland) on eight out of ten performance indicators: employment rate, taxfiler's employment income, housing starts, non-residential building permits, secondary school graduates, university completion, employment in natural sciences and related occupations, and net new business formation. Regional BC performed better than urban BC on retail sales and manufacturing shipments.

This year's report includes – for the first time – supplemental indicators benchmarking outcome performance (where available) of inter-regional performance, including; Jobs (employment rate) and Employment Income by Development Region; High School Completion by School District and a special topic benchmarking Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education against the general population. Some key findings include:

- The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2002 and for the 1995 through 2002 average. The Thompson–Okanagan had the lowest employment rate in 2002 as well as the lowest 1995 through 2002 average. The employment rate in the Thompson–Okanagan was, on average, 13.0 percentage points (23.4%) lower than in the Northeast.

- The Northeast and Lower Mainland–Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. The Northeast was first in 2000 with real per capita income of $14,728; the Lower Mainland–Southwest was second with real per capita income of $14,652. Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1991 and 2000. The exception was the North Coast where real per capita incomes declined.

- British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 90% in West Vancouver to 33% in the Stikine. The rest of the top five districts (and their respective completion rates) are: Richmond (88%), Revelstoke (87%), Southeast Kootenay (86%) and Arrow Lakes (85%).

- BC's Aboriginal population reported a 62.9% labour force participation rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, BC residents in total reported a slightly higher 65.2% participation rate with 59.6% employment rate and a significantly lower 8.5% unemployment rate. The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over is $22,095, that of the province's Aboriginal population is only $13,242.

Of seven indicators of urban versus regional performance related to ***environment, health and society***, Regional BC outperforms the Vancouver CMA on three: low birth weight infants, personal and property crime rate and social condition (low income incidence). BC's largest urban region – the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area – performs better than Regional BC on local air quality, the percentage of the population served by wastewater treatment, life expectancy at birth and cancer mortality rates.

This year's report also includes supplemental benchmarking using data from the five regional health authorities, including: cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality and low birth weight infants. The report also compares income assistance and employment insurance rates on an urban versus regional basis, crime rates by Municipality and includes a special topic box benchmarking Aboriginal population and health versus the general population. Some key findings include:

- The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority has the lowest cancer mortality rate of 14.3 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest cancer mortality rate for 2002 (18.1 deaths per 10,000 population) and, the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1993 through 2002 at 18.6 deaths per 10,000 population. The cancer mortality rate in 2002 is lower in every Health Authority than in 1993.

- The lowest mortality rate from cardiovascular disease in 2002 (16.8 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Island Health Authority; the highest (19.9) occurred in the Northern Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2002 than in 1993 all across BC.

- The Interior Health Authority registered the highest 2002 rate of low weight births (5.5%). The Fraser Health Authority had the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1993 and 2002, at 5.2%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2002 (5.1%) and the lowest 1993 through 2002 average rate (4.7%).

- Smithers had the highest combined personal and property crime rate in BC in 2002, followed by Williams Lake, Courtenay, Fort St. John and Whistler. The lowest overall crime rate in BC was in Spallumcheen followed by Goldstream, North Saanich, Central Saanich and Oak Bay.

- British Columbia's Aboriginal population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Aboriginal population is showing improvement relative to both past performance and the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Aboriginal and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight.

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I. Benchmarking British Columbia's Regions

Introduction

This is the third annual benchmarking report of the BC Progress Board. Established in July 2001 and comprised of 18 British Columbians with a wide range of experience, the Progress Board has two broad mandates:

- To provide advice on whether and to what extent the province is improving its competitive position and quality of life by establishing an ongoing means to measure and benchmark British Columbia's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- To identify issues of importance to the province's future economic prosperity and advise the Premier on strategies, policies and actions necessary to increase the economic and social well-being of British Columbians.

The 2003 Reporting Framework

The BC Progress Board's Benchmarking Report for 2003 is split into two volumes to highlight BC's ***internal*** and ***external*** performance.

The first volume – External Performance Review – focusses on comparisons of BC's performance against other provinces, US Pacific States and OECD member nations.

The second volume is an expanded look within British Columbia and is entitled the "Internal Performance Review". Readers familiar with the Progress Board's first and second annual reports will recognize the comparisons among the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA and Regional British Columbia. Although Abbotsford became BC's third CMA based on the results of the 2001 Census its results are not presented in this report due to the limited data currently available. This year, supplemental comparisons based on BC's eight Development Regions and five Health Authorities are included, along with a special examination of population and agglomeration trends within the province. Appendix B includes maps showing the Vancouver CMA, Victoria CMA, Development Region and Health Authority boundaries.

New in the 2003 Reporting Framework

The Progress Board's reporting has increased in frequency and in volume. To make use of preliminary data that Statistics Canada releases on some of our core target and performance indicators the Progress Board now issues a mid-year interim report on economic performance. Although the 2003 Interim Benchmarking Report was released on July 18th, subsequent editions will be released in May or June of each year, shortly after the preliminary data becomes available.

Current Results – Internal Performance Review

Economy, Innovation and Education – Summary Findings

The Vancouver CMA outperforms Regional BC on most of the Economy, Innovation and Education indicators. The exceptions include retail sales (which is split fairly evenly based on population) and manufacturing shipments. The fact that Regional BC's manufacturing shipments greatly exceed those of the Vancouver CMA is not surprising given that so much of BC's economic activity originates in Regional BC. The following table provides a basic overview of these indicators.

Comparison of Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC

Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2002	% Pop. (15-64)	69.8	69.6	67.9	-
2. Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita	2000	$1992 per capita	15,122	13,769	11,800	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	1999	$1992 per capita	3,647	936	14,606	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2002	$1992 per capita	8,056	N/A	8,558	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2002	Starts/1,000 Pop.	6.3	4.2	4.2	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2002	$1992 per capita	441	464	251	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2002	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	79.8	77.7	71.9	-
8. University Completion	2002	% Pop. (25-54)	27.6	23.5	12.5	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2002	% Employment	6.6	7.5	4.6	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population	2002	Form./1,000 Pop.	6.8	4.4	2.5	-

- The employment gap between Greater Vancouver and Regional BC – as measured by the employment rate – has widened since 1998, although it is currently smaller than it was in 1992.

- Between 1991 and 2000, real per capita employment income growth in the Vancouver CMA was more than double that in Regional BC and roughly two-thirds of the growth in the Victoria CMA. In 2000, real per capita employment income was $11,800 in Regional BC, $13,769 in the Victoria CMA and $15,122 in the Vancouver CMA.

- The bulk of manufacturing shipments originate outside of Vancouver and Victoria and the proportion of shipments from these two cities fell in the 1990s. In 1999, Vancouver was responsible for 22.9% of all shipments, Victoria for only 0.9%, and Regional BC for the remaining 76.1%.

- Real per capita retail sales are roughly equal in the Vancouver CMA and in Regional BC. Growth in retail sales between 1993 and 2002 was stronger in Regional BC than in the Vancouver CMA.

- Housing starts per thousand population have shown strong growth since 2000 (in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs) and 2001 (in Regional BC) but 2002 levels were still well below those seen in 1993, a peak year.

- The value of real per capita non-residential building permits has been steady or falling for much of the last ten years. The 2002 values were roughly four-fifths of their 1993 values in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and about half in Regional BC.

- The Vancouver CMA has proportionately more high school graduates than Regional BC. In 2002, 79.8% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school compared to 71.9% in Regional BC and 77.7% in the Victoria CMA. All regions in BC have seen strong growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduate from high school over the period 1993 through 2002.

- The Vancouver CMA also has proportionally more residents with university credentials than Regional BC. Regional BC and the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs saw strong growth in this indicator between 1993 and 2002, although growth in the Victoria CMA was roughly one-third that in the other parts of the province.

- The Vancouver CMA has a larger fraction of its employment in natural and applied sciences and related occupations than does Regional BC. Similar to the picture for University credentials, Regional BC and the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs had strong growth in this indicator between 1993 and 2002.

- Most of British Columbia's net new business formations occur in the Vancouver CMA. The rate of net new business formations per thousand population was higher in 2002 than in 2001, but well below the recent 1994 peak level.

Environment, Health and Society – Summary Findings

A review of available regional indicators for Environment, Health and Society shows that the Vancouver CMA typically performs better than Regional BC. However, the Vancouver CMA is not as dominant on this set of seven indicators as it is on measures of economy, innovation and education; the split is more even with Regional BC outperforming the Vancouver CMA on three indicators (low birth weight infants, crime rates, and low income incidence).

Comparison of Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC Environment, Health and Society						
	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2002	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	5.8	7.1	7.3	-
12. Wastewater Treatment	1999	% Pop. Served	57.4	N/A	46.3	-
13. Cancer Mortality	2002	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.5	6.2	5.3	-
14. Life Expectancy at Birth	2002	Years	81.5	80.9	79.8	-
15. Low Birth Weight Rate	2002	per 1,000 Live Births	53.5	57.9	50.7	+
16. Personal and Property Crime	2002	Incidents per 100 Pop.	8.2	6.7	7.4	+
17. Social Condition	2001	% of Families	19.4	15.3	13.5	+

- Concentrations of particulate matter (PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$) are generally higher outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Lower Fraser Valley. Between 1994 and 2000 air quality improved (using the PM_{10} measure) in the six cities we review. Results are mixed between 2001 and 2002 based on the $PM_{2.5}$ measure.

- Vancouver performs noticeably better than the rest of the province on wastewater treatment.

- Cancer mortality in the Vancouver CMA is lower than in Regional BC, which in turn, is lower than in the Victoria CMA. Although rates have increased in recent years they are below the 1993 rates.

- Life expectancy at birth is higher in the Vancouver CMA than in Regional BC and the Victoria CMA. On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 4 months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1993 and 2002, by 3 months per year in the Victoria CMA and by 2½ months per year in Regional BC.

- The Lower Mainland typically has a higher incidence of low birth weight infants than those seen in Regional BC and the Victoria CMA. In general, the ratio of low weight births to total live births increased in the early 1990s in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and Regional BC, fell during the mid and late 1990s and increased between 2001 and 2002.

- Personal and property crime rates were consistently higher in the Vancouver CMA than in Regional BC over the 1990s and into the new century. Crime rates are lower in 2002 than in 1993 in Regional BC and in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs, although the rate has increased recently in Regional BC and the Victoria CMA.

- Vancouver has a higher incidence of people living below the low income cut-off than the Victoria CMA or Regional BC. The low income rate fell between 1992 and 2001 in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs but increased in Regional BC.

Special Topics – Summary Findings

Development Region Results

- ***Employment Rate***
  The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the eight Development Regions in 2002 and, on average, between 1995 and 2002. Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the Development Regions was the Thompson–Okanagan's 53.7% in 2002. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 1995 value of 71.4%.

- ***Taxfiler's Employment Income***
  The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1991 and 2000. The exception was the North Coast Development Region which had a decrease of 0.2%. The increases range from 2.5% in the Kootenay Development Region to 9.6% in the Northeast Development Region.

Health Authority Results

- ***Cancer Mortality***
  The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest 2002 cancer mortality rate of 14.3 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest rate at 18.1 and had the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1993 through 2002 at 18.6. The cancer mortality rate in 2002 is lower in every Health Authority than in 1993.

- ***Cardiovascular Disease***
  The lowest 2002 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (16.8 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Island Health Authority; the highest (19.9) was in the Northern Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2002 than in 1993 all across BC.

- ***Low Weight Births***
  The Fraser Health Authority had the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1993 and 2002, at 5.2%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2002 (5.1%) and the lowest 1993 through 2002 average rate (4.7%). No clear trend in the incidence of low weight births is evident over the period 1993 through 2002.

Special Topics Related to Economy, Innovation and Education

- ***Secondary School Completion***
  In 2001/02, BC had a completion rate of 77% for all students and 43% for Aboriginal students. British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 90% in West Vancouver to 33% in the Stikine.

- ***Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education***
  Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada have suffered from an economic gap with the broader population, with higher levels of unemployment and lower incomes. For example, in 2001, the median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a median income of $13,242. Educational achievement and enrollment rates have also lagged those of non-Aboriginal students. While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it has recently begun to narrow.

Special Topics Related to Environment, Health and Society

- ***Crime Rate by Municipality***
  Smithers had the highest overall crime rate in BC in 2002. The lowest overall crime rate in BC was in Spallumcheen. Smithers saw the largest increase in its crime rate with a 40.9% increase from 181 incidents per 1,000 population in 1993 to 255 incidents per 1,000 population in 2002.

- ***Employment Insurance Recipients***
  The proportion of the population (aged 15-64) receiving EI benefits is higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver or Victoria CMAs. On average, between 1993 and 2002, the ratio was 57.6% higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver CMA. On average, more than half of all EI recipients in BC are outside of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.

- ***Income Assistance Recipients***
  The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits has followed similar patterns in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and in Regional BC. The proportion peaked in 1995 and since then the proportion has fallen by 63.6% in the Vancouver CMA, 62.9% in the Victoria CMA, and 55.5% in Regional BC.

- ***Aboriginal Health and Population***
  British Columbia's Aboriginal population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Aboriginal population is showing improvement relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Aboriginal and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight infants. For example, life expectancy among the Status Indian population in BC in 2000 was 76.7 years – slightly less than four years shorter than BC's overall life expectancy of 80.6 years.

Outline of the Remainder of Volume II

The remainder of this volume is divided into three chapters and a number of appendices.

Chapter II is a discussion of population changes and agglomeration trends.

Chapter III reports the economic benchmarks, focusing on measures of growth, prosperity, innovation and education.

Chapter IV reports the environment, health and society benchmarks.

Appendix A lists the Board members, Staff and Advisory Group

Appendix B provides a discussion of Methodology

Appendix C is a Glossary of Terms

Appendix D consists of the data analysed in this Volume

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II. BC Rural – Urban Population: Trends and Agglomeration

Over the last couple of decades, population and economic growth has been higher in the Lower Mainland than in the rest of the province. Between 1990 and 2003, the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area's (CMA) population grew by 32.5%, the Victoria CMA's population grew by 11.8% and the population in Regional BC grew by 21.5%. In 2003, about 51% of BC's population resided in the Vancouver CMA, another 8% were in the Victoria CMA and the balance (41%) resided in Regional BC. Generally speaking, most of BC's immigrants settle in the Lower Mainland.

BC Population Changes and Distribution- Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

	1990 - 2003		1992 - 1997		1997 - 2003		2003
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Percent of Total Population
Vancouver CMA	522,318	32.5	256,389	15.1	174,057	8.9	51.4
Victoria CMA	34,136	11.8	18,670	6.2	3,809	1.2	7.8
Regional BC	299,312	21.5	205,040	14.0	20,170	1.2	40.8
BC	855,766	26.0	480,099	13.8	198,036	5.0	

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Beyond the broad rural to urban population shifts during the 1990s, fully five out of eight Development Regions experienced absolute population declines during 1997 through 2002. The North Coast and Cariboo regions declined the most, registering 7.6% and 3.2% drops respectively during the five year period, while the Mainland/Southwest increased by 7.3%, Vancouver Island by 0.6 %, and the Thompson-Okanagan by 2.4%. This contrasts sharply with positive – though uneven – population growth in all eight Development Regions between 1992 and 1997, ranging from more than 15% in the Mainland/Southwest and Thompson-Okanagan to a low of 3.9% in the North Coast. Even in the 1992-1997 period, urban population growth was appreciably higher than in rural areas of the province.

BC Population - Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

	1990 - 2002		1992 - 1997		1997 - 2002		2002
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Percent of Total Population
Vancouver Island/Coast	106,472	17.4	70,924	11.0	4,342	0.6	17.4
Mainland/Southwest	578,519	31.5	304,268	15.6	163,726	7.3	58.7
Thompson-Okanagan	103,609	27.0	64,394	15.7	11,391	2.4	11.8
Kootenay	14,460	10.5	11,897	8.5	(1,124)	(0.7)	3.7
Cariboo	13,547	8.7	17,501	11.2	(5,535)	(3.2)	4.1
North Coast	(1,701)	(2.5)	2,641	3.9	(5,354)	(7.6)	1.6
Nechako	3,409	8.3	3,625	8.7	(534)	(1.2)	1.1
Northeast	5,852	9.9	4,849	8.0	(475)	(0.7)	1.6
British Columbia	824,167	25.0	480,099	13.8	166,437	4.2	

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada

The broad pattern of rural to urban migration (or the tendency of higher settlement and industrial clustering in urban centers) is commonly referred to as "agglomeration". Agglomerative economies typically arise from the close proximity of a complex system of inputs, outputs and employment clustered in larger centers. The trend toward agglomeration is not only a BC phenomenon, but is also occurring in the U.S. and other international economies. For example, our nearest neighbour to the south – Washington State – has experienced patterns similar to BC with most state-wide population growth clustering in King (which includes Seattle) and Whatcom (in the Northwest) counties with relative or absolute population declines in portions of the "Inland Empire" (or interior of the state).

Within BC, agglomeration effects have led to Greater Vancouver outpacing the rest of the province in population growth and coincide with the Vancouver CMA outperforming the rest of BC on many key economic indicators. BC Progress Board benchmarking demonstrates that areas outside of the Vancouver CMA – an area with roughly the same size population – lagged in most key economic indicators, housing starts, employment rate, and incomes over the past decade. This pattern of underperformance is not surprising when one considers that falling investment, job losses, and the lagging export performance in forestry, mining and the commercial fishery have been a drain on the economic base of many once-vibrant communities throughout the province. The table below shows that Forestry, Pulp and Paper, Fishing and Mining have gone from exporting 73.0% of BC's commodity exports in 1993 to only 57.9% in 2002. The decline evident in these traditional economic drivers contributed to BC's descent into "have-not" status in fiscal 1999/2000.

BC Origin Exports, Selected Commodities, share of total

	1993	1996	1999	2002	Percentage Point Change in Share, 1993 - 2002	Percentage Change in Share, 1993 - 2003
Wood Products	40.6	36.5	35.0	32.0	(8.6)	(21.2)
Pulp and Paper Products	21.4	22.1	19.4	17.5	(3.9)	(18.2)
Agriculture and Food (excl. Fish)	2.9	3.3	4.0	4.8	1.9	65.5
Fish Products	4.2	3.2	2.9	3.5	(0.7)	(16.7)
Metallic Mineral Products	6.8	6.4	4.9	4.9	(1.9)	(27.9)
Energy Products	9.7	10.4	11.0	12.8	3.1	32.0
Machinery and Equipment	7.2	8.5	12.4	11.5	4.3	59.7
All Other Commodities	7.3	9.4	10.4	13.0	5.7	78.1

Source: BC Stats, Exports (BC Origin) 1993-2002, November 2003

Only two regions of the province have experienced significant new employment growth – Greater Vancouver and the Thompson-Okanagan, most of it in the broad services sector. This better performance is explained – in large part – by the reinforcing effects of agglomerative economies. Urban areas have historically been more efficient because they have larger markets leading to economies of scale and scope in goods and service industries. The presence of larger pools of labour, materials and services enable both small and large firms to benefit from economies of scale, while economies of scope will arise when firms are able to carry out complementary activities or specialize in close proximity

to each other. Proximity also facilitates the diffusion of knowledge, often leading to innovation and the creation of new products or improved business processes. A broad benefit of agglomeration tends to be more diversification and, thus, less vulnerability to cyclical fluctuations.

Our resource industries remain vital to the overall prosperity of the Lower Mainland which is home to many resource industry head offices, transportation facilities, and business and technical services. Resource industries also account for more than 70 percent of BC's international goods exports and will continue to serve as a mainstay of the province's economy. However, most of BC's leading growth industries are – and likely will continue to be – centred in the Lower Mainland. While the rural to urban shift presented by BC's population statistics will likely continue due to the reinforcing effects of agglomeration, BC's traditional resource industries, as well as tourism and a cadre of niche industries, will be critical to enhance employment prospects in our regional economies and to stem population outflows.

The dynamic nature of agglomeration generally, and the rural to urban population shifts in British Columbia (and elsewhere), specifically, often raise questions about whether government intervention to "stem rural outflows" is desirable. The World Development Report, 1999/2000, suggests direct government efforts in this regard are usually futile:

> "The unhappy record of past government efforts to prevent rural-urban migration or to steer urban growth to particular locations leads to a straight-forward conclusion: governments are not skilled at deciding where households and firms should locate ... Governments can perform a useful function by working to provide an environment conducive to economic growth, regardless of location." (World Bank, p. 131).

In the final analysis, recent patterns in BC's population growth illustrate that the province is going through a transition period, with the overwhelming international trend of "agglomeration" in larger urban centers expected to continue to impact BC's economic evolution. The key to enhancing the prospects of urban areas and the "Heartlands" is to recognize that they are mutually dependent. The Lower Mainland will benefit from increased productivity in traditional resource and tourism industries in BC's Heartlands. Meanwhile, the Heartlands will provide important markets for specialized services such as transportation, marketing, finance and construction located in the Lower Mainland. At a broad level, this will require government, business and individuals to focus on efforts to maintain competitive business and personal taxation rates, to build an educated and skilled workforce, and to tackle top business impediments on a sector-by-sector basis.

Declining populations in our province's Heartlands present many serious challenges. These are not unique to British Columbia and are best addressed by all orders of government getting the policy mix "right" on economic and social matters and by individuals establishing a vision of their economic future that builds on local strengths.

Sources: BC Stats, *2001 Census Fast Facts: BC Immigrant Population*, June 2003; Statistics Canada; World Bank, *World Development Report*, 1999/2000, p. 125-137; John de Wolf, CCG Consulting Group Ltd., *Growth Drivers in British Columbia, The Search For Industry Candidates.*

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III. Economy, Innovation and Education

Regional Performance Indicators

1. Jobs: Employment Rate
2. Taxfiler's Employment Income
3. Manufacturing Shipments
4. Retail Sales
5. Housing Starts - Dwelling Units
6. Non-Residential Building Permits
7. Secondary School Graduates
8. University Completion
9. Scientists and Engineers Employed
10. Net New Business Formation

Comparison of Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC

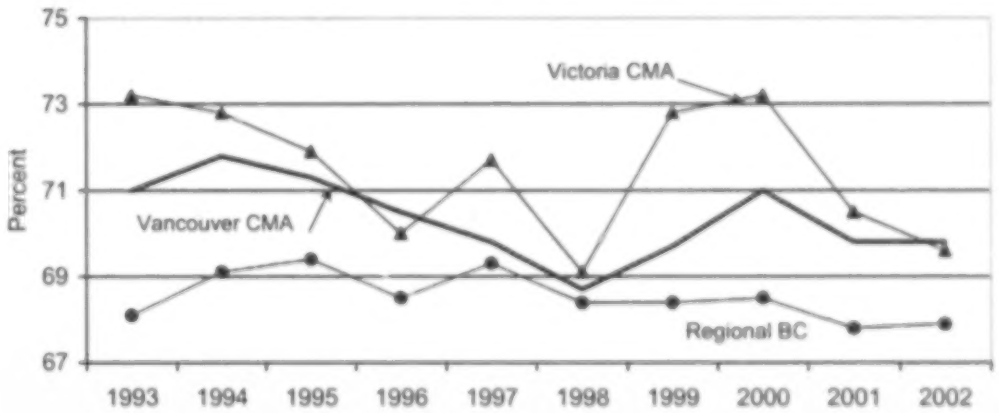
Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2002	% Pop. (15-64)	69.8	69.6	67.9	-
2. Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita	2000	$1992 per capita	15,122	13,769	11,800	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	1999	$1992 per capita	3,647	936	14,606	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2002	$1992 per capita	8,056	N/A	8,558	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2002	Starts/1,000 Pop.	6.3	4.2	4.2	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2002	$1992 per capita	441	464	251	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2002	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	79.8	77.7	71.9	-
8. University Completion	2002	% Pop. (25-54)	27.6	23.5	12.5	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2002	% Employment	6.6	7.5	4.6	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population	2002	Form./1,000 Pop.	6.8	4.4	2.5	-

Performance Indicator 1 BC Regional Comparison

Jobs: Employment Rate

Employment Rate (Ages 15 to 64), Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats, Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64, the number of employed persons (i.e. working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Why it's Important

The employment rate is an effective measure of labour utilization. High labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

Analysis

The employment rate in the Vancouver CMA fell by 1.2 percentage points (1.7 percent) from 71.0 in 1993 to 69.8 in 2002. The employment rate in the Victoria CMA fell by 3.6 percentage points (4.9 percent) from 73.2 in 1993 to 69.6 in 2002. The employment rate for Regional BC fell by 0.2 percentage points (0.4 percent) from 68.1 in 1993 to 67.9 in 2002. Overall, BC's employment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points (1.3 percent) from 70.0 in 1993 to 69.1 in 2002.

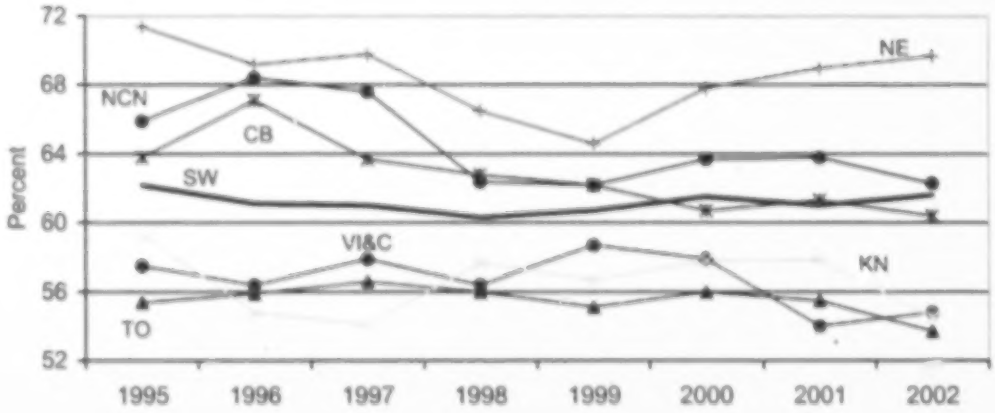
In the Vancouver CMA in 2002, 69.8 percent of the people aged 15-64 were employed. This was 0.4 percent higher than the ratio of 69.6 in the Victoria CMA and 2.8 percent higher than the ratio of 67.9 in Regional BC.

The chart above shows that the ratios fluctuate by roughly three to four percentage points over the period. The average ratio in the Vancouver CMA between 1993 and 2002 was 70.3%; the average in the Victoria CMA was 71.5%. The average ratio in Regional BC was 68.6% and the average for the province as a whole was 69.7%.

Performance Indicator 1 — Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Jobs: Employment Rate

Employment Rate (Ages 15 to 64), BC Development Regions



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats, Statistics Canada.

Employment Rate (Ages 15 to 64) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2002 Rank	1995 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2002 Average	1995 - 2002 Minimum	1995 - 2002 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	5	56.7	5	54.0	58.7
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	3	61.2	4	60.3	62.2
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	7	55.5	7	53.7	56.6
Kootenay	KN	6	56.6	6	54.1	59.3
Cariboo	CB	4	62.8	3	60.4	67.1
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	2	64.5	2	62.2	68.4
Northeast	NE	1	68.5	1	64.6	71.4
British Columbia			59.8		59.2	60.7

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2002 and for the 1995 through 2002 average. Its average employment rate was 4.0 percentage points (6.1%) higher than that in 2nd ranked North Coast & Nechako.

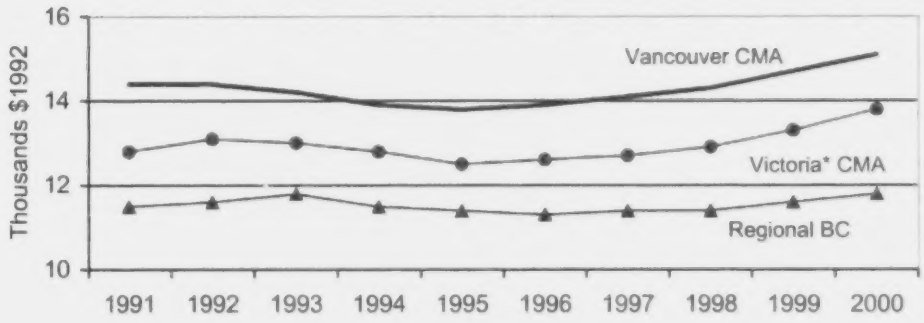
Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the Development Regions was the Thompson – Okanagan's 53.7% in 2002. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 1995 value of 71.4%.

The Thompson – Okanagan had the lowest employment rate in 2002 as well as the lowest 1995 through 2002 average. The employment rate in the Thompson – Okanagan was, on average, 13.0 percentage points (23.4%) lower than in the Northeast.

Note: The North Coast and Nechako DRs are combined in the Labour Force Survey, the source for these data.

Taxfiler's Employment Income ($1992)

Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita, Vancouver, Victoria*, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

Description

This indicator measures the income earned by British Columbians from employment and self-employment as reported to the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency on tax returns. For tax purposes, employment/self-employment includes wages, salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, commissions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Why it's Important

This indicator is a measure of economic activity and individual prosperity.

Analysis (Per Capita Employment Income)

Real per capita employment income grew by 2.2% between 1991 and 2000 in Regional BC. The Vancouver CMA saw growth of 5.0% while the Victoria CMAs growth was 7.8%. In 2000, real per capita employment income was $11,800 in Regional BC, $13,769 in the Victoria CMA and $15,122 in the Vancouver CMA. The Victoria CMA's average annual growth in real per capita employment income between 1991 and 2000 was 0.5%; the Vancouver CMA experienced negative average growth (negative 0.1%) as did Regional BC (negative 0.2%).

Analysis (Total Employment Income)

In 1991, real employment income of taxfilers in the Vancouver CMA was $23.7 billion. Real employment income in the Victoria CMA was $3.8 billion, real employment income in Regional BC was $16.5 billion and the provincial total was $44.0 billion. By 2000, real employment income had grown to $30.9 billion in the Vancouver CMA, $4.4 billion in the Victoria CMA, and $19.7 billion in Regional BC for a provincial total of $55.1 billion.

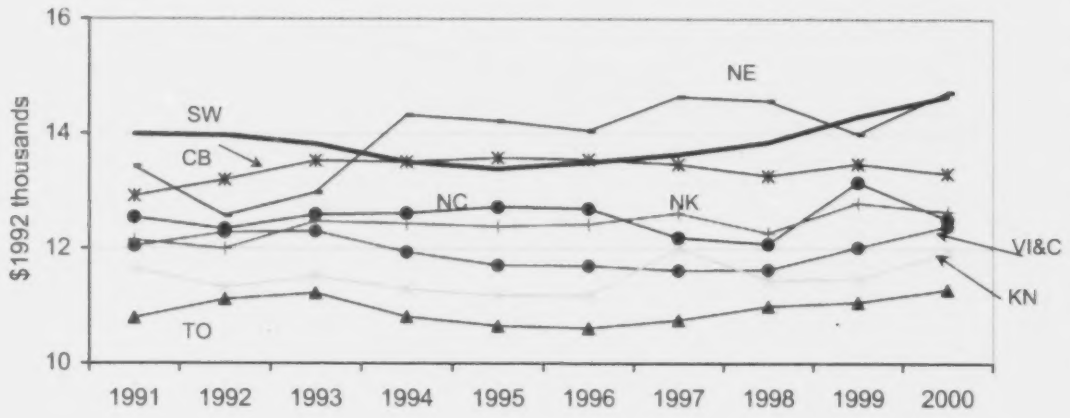
The shares of employment income earned in the various regions in BC remained relatively constant over the 1990s. In 1991, Vancouver accounted for 53.9% of taxfiler's employment income, Victoria accounted for 8.6%, and Regional BC for 37.5%. In 2000, the shares were: 56.1% in Vancouver, 8.1% in Victoria, and 35.8% in Regional BC.

Notes: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District less the Gulf Islands for this indicator. Some of the information presented above differs from that in the 2001 and 2002 Reports in that it focuses on employment income relative to population.

Performance Indicator 2 Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Taxfiler's Employment Income ($1992)

Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita, BC Development Regions



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2000 Rank	1991 - 2000 Average	Rank for 1991 - 2000 Average	1991 - 2000 Minimum	1991 - 2000 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	6	11,963	6	11,616	12,394
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	2	13,861	2	13,388	14,652
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	8	10,933	8	10,611	11,288
Kootenay	KN	7	11,503	7	11,179	12,013
Cariboo	CB	3	13,381	3	12,911	13,582
North Coast	NC	5	12,544	4	12,085	13,152
Nechako	NK	4	12,417	5	11,997	12,796
Northeast	NE	1	13,952	1	12,570	14,728
British Columbia			13,013		10,611	14,728

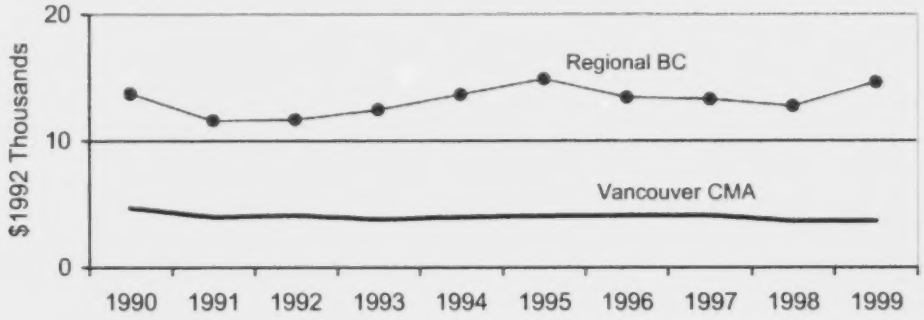
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. The Northeast was first in 2000 with real per capita income of $14,728; the Lower Mainland-Southwest Development Region was second with real per capita income of $14,652. The Northeast and Lower Mainland Development Regions held the same respective positions for the average real per capita income between 1991 and 2000 at $13,952 and $13,861.

Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1991 and 2000. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 0.2%. The increases range from 2.5% in the Kootenay Development Region to 9.6% in the Northeast.

Manufacturing Shipments

Manufacturing Shipments* Per Capita ($1992), Vancouver and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator is a measure of manufacturing activity per capita in thousands of 1992 dollars. The three major sources of BC's manufacturing shipments are the wood, metal fabricating, and food industries. Wood products is the largest at 33.0% of total manufacturing shipments, followed by food at 9.5% and metal fabricating at 5.3%. Combined, these industries were responsible for 47.7% of BC manufacturing shipments in 1999.**

Why it's Important

This indicator plays a vital role in measuring an area's overall economic activity.

Analysis

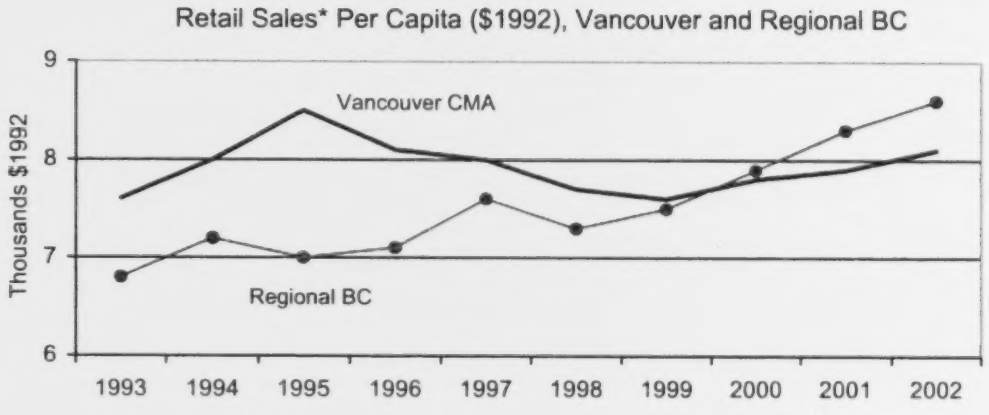
Manufacturing shipments remained an important part of overall provincial GDP throughout the 1990s. Manufacturing shipments were equal to 31.4% of BC's GDP in 1990 and 29.6% in 1999. In 1990, real manufacturing shipments were $26.9 billion; they were $32.1 billion in 1999.

The bulk of manufacturing shipments originate outside of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. The proportion of shipments from these two cities fell in the 1990s. In 1990, the Vancouver CMA was responsible for 28.1% of all shipments, the Victoria CMA for only 0.9%, and Regional BC for the remaining 71.0%. In 1999, the Vancouver CMA's shipments were 22.9% of the total, the Victoria CMA's were again 0.9%, and shipments from the rest of the province were 76.1% of the total.

Real manufacturing shipments per capita were $8,000 in BC in 1999. Regional BC's real manufacturing shipments per capita were $14,606 in 1999, compared to $3,647 in the Vancouver CMA, reflecting the dominance described above.

Notes: *Victoria's shipments represent less than 1.0% of the total and have been left off this figure. These data have not been updated since the 2002 Report due to Statistics Canada release delays. The presentation has, however, been changed to reflect a per capita analysis. **BC Stats, Quarterly Regional Statistics, Interim Report, Second Quarter, 2002.

Retail Sales



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures sales at retail outlets. Direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machine sales and door-to-door printed materials sold by a publisher directly are excluded; sales taxes and non-operating revenue are also excluded.

Why it's Important

Retail sales constitute a significant proportion of GDP and are used as a measure of economic performance. Retail trade is one of BC's largest sources of employment. In 2002, 245,500 people were employed in BC's retail trade.**

Analysis (Real Per Capita Retail Sales)

Real per capita retail sales were $8,056 in the Vancouver CMA and $8,558 in the Victoria CMA and Regional BC combined* in 2002. Real per capita retail sales in the Vancouver CMA grew by 6.2% ($468) between 1993 and 2002 but they are down by 5.2% ($442) from their 1995 peak of $8,498. Growth in the rest of BC was stronger. Real per capita retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA grew by 25.6% ($1,746) between 1993 and 2002. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year between 1995 and 1999; the areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1996 and 1998.

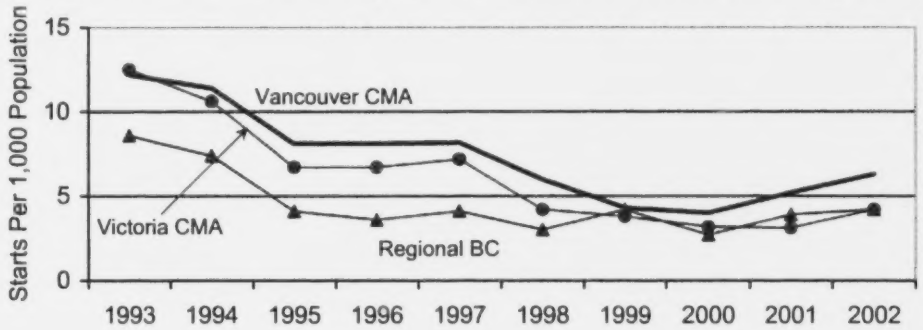
Analysis (Total Retail Sales)

Between 1993 and 2002, average annual growth in real retail sales was stronger in Regional BC (3.9%) than in the Vancouver CMA (3.0%) and sales outside of the Vancouver CMA did not stagnate between 1995 and 1999. Real retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA were lower in 1998 ($14.7 billion) than in 1997 ($15.2 billion); other than this decrease they grew by an average of 4.6%, year over year, between 1993 and 2002.

Notes: *Separate retail sales data are not available for Victoria. **Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Some of the information presented above differs from that in the 2001 and 2002 Reports because it focuses on retail sales relative to population.

Housing Starts - Dwelling Units

Housing Starts Per Thousand Population in Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Description

This indicator measures the number of dwelling units started and the number of permits issued for construction. It represents the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when a footing is installed. All new units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Less populated areas are sampled and an estimate is included.

Why it's Important

Housing starts are considered a good leading indicator for home sales and a major indicator of economic activity and consumer confidence. Housing construction is an important generator of employment. Some estimates suggest that each housing start creates 2.8 person-years of employment.*

Analysis (Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population)

Housing starts per 1,000 population in 2002 are up 31.5% in Regional BC, 53.7% in the Victoria CMA and 56.2% in the Vancouver CMA over their level in 2000. Unfortunately, 2000 was a trough year for the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs while 2001 was a trough for Regional BC. Housing starts peaked in the early 1990s in BC. The level of per capita housing starts in 2002 are 48.7% lower than the 1993 peak in the Vancouver CMA, 53.5% lower than the 1990 peak in the Victoria CMA and 68.4% lower than the 1992 peak in Regional BC.

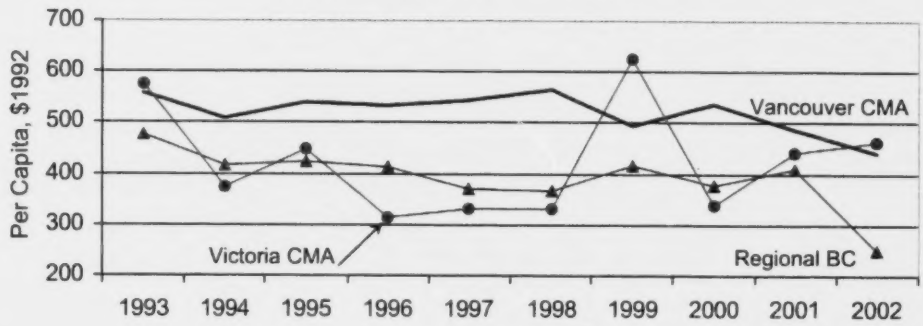
Analysis (Total Housing Starts)

Housing starts fell sharply in the 1990s. Housing starts in BC peaked at 42,807 in 1993 and fell to a low of 14,418 in 2000. Between 1993 and 2002, the average annual decrease in the number of housing starts in the Vancouver CMA was 1.4%; the average annual decrease was 1.6% in the Victoria CMA and 7.2% in Regional BC.

Notes: *CMHC, The Current Performance of the Housing Industry in Canada, 1999. Some of the information presented above differs from that in the 2001 and 2002 Reports in that it focuses on housing starts relative to population.

Non-Residential Building Permits

Non-Residential Building Permits Per Capita* ($1992) in Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the dollar value of permits issued by municipalities and regional districts for non-residential buildings. It includes industrial, commercial and institutional construction, as well as new government buildings. Also included are alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Why it's Important

The value of non-residential building permits issued is an important measure of a jurisdiction's economic activity and attractiveness to investors.

Analysis (Real Per Capita Non-Residential Building Permits)

The value of real per capita non-residential building permits has been steady or falling for much of the last ten years. It was 19.6% lower in 2002 than in 1993 in the Victoria CMA, 21.2% lower in the Vancouver CMA and 47.4% lower in Regional BC. The Victoria CMA had average annual growth of 4.0% between 1993 and 2002 in the value of real per capita non-residential building permits. Victoria was the only region to have positive growth. The per capita value fell by 4.3%, on average, in Regional BC and by 4.6%, on average, in the Vancouver CMA.

Analysis (Total Non-Residential Building Permits)

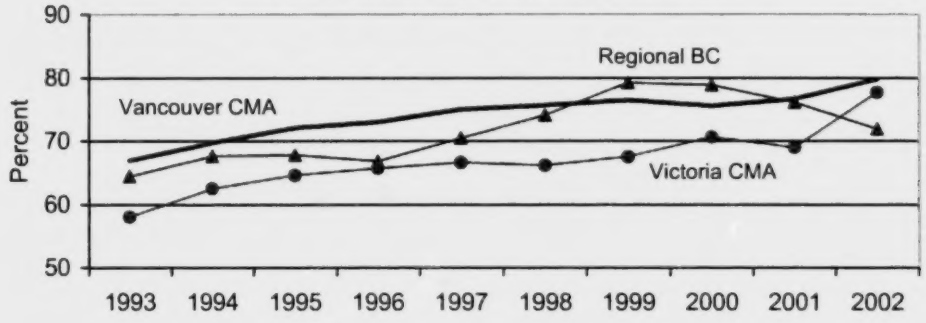
The inflation adjusted value of non-residential building permits in 2002 in the Vancouver CMA was 5.0% ($48.5 million) lower than the value of permits in 1993. Similarly, the real value of permits was 15.2% ($26.8 million) lower in 2002 in the Victoria CMA than in 1993 and they were 41.5% ($300.4 million) lower in Regional BC in 2002 than in 1993.

The average annual growth in the value of non-residential building permits between 1993 and 2002 was 4.8% in the Victoria CMA, negative 2.5% in the Vancouver CMA and negative 2.9% in Regional BC.

Note: *Some of the information presented above differs from that in the 2001 and 2002 Reports in that it focuses on the value of building permits relative to population.

Secondary School Graduates

High School Graduates* as a Percent of the 18 Year Old Population, Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional of BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Education.

Description

This indicator represents the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the year noted including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams. It is expressed as a percentage of the 18 year old population on July 1st of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

Why it's Important

Levels of education tend to correlate strongly with future personal prosperity and well-being. With the "knowledge" content of most jobs steadily increasing, high school graduation is deemed essential as a base qualification for other "higher learning".

Analysis

In 2002, 79.8% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school. This was higher than the rates in Regional BC (71.9%) and the Victoria CMA (77.7%).

All regions in BC have seen strong growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduate from high school. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion increased by 19.7 percentage points (33.9%) in the Victoria CMA, 12.9 percentage points (19.2%) in the Vancouver CMA and by 7.5 percentage points (11.7%) in Regional BC.

The Vancouver CMA's average annual growth rate for the proportion of the 18 year old population that graduated from high school was 1.4% between 1993 and 2002. The equivalent rates for the Victoria CMA and Regional BC are, respectively, 2.2% and 1.1%.

Notes: There may be slight variations between graduation rates contained in this report and those reported by provincial Ministries of Education. Data used in this indicator are made comparable across jurisdictions by Statistics Canada. *The data as presented above differ from those in the 2002 Report due to the more detailed population information available from the 2001 Census. The changes in previously reported rates are due to revisions to the population numbers only, no changes to the number of graduates have been made.

School Completion Rate

In 2001/02, BC had a high school completion rate of 77% for all students and 43% for Aboriginal students.

The completion rate is provided as a companion to the graduation rate. Completion rates are determined by tracking the number of students entering grade 8 who graduate within six years. Graduation rates as they are presented above differ from the "completion rate" as they represent the number of graduates in any given year as a percentage of the population of eighteen year olds in that year.

British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 90% in West Vancouver to 33% in the Stikine. The rest of the top five districts (and their respective completion rates) are: Richmond (885), Revelstoke (87%), Southeast Kootenay (86%) and Arrow Lakes (85%). The bottom five consist of the Stikine, Nisga'a (39%), Gold Trail (52%), Queen Charlotte (53%) and Vancouver Island West (57%).

2001 Dogwood Completion Rate Summary

	All Students	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal
Top Five Districts - All Students				
West Vancouver	90	90	56	34
Richmond	88	88	54	34
Revelstoke	87	90	32	58
Southeast Kootenay	86	88	63	25
Arrow Lakes	85	86	58	28
Bottom Five Districts - All Students				
Vancouver Island West	57	69	20	49
Queen Charlotte	53	73	35	38
Gold Trail	52	60	43	17
Nisga'a	39	n/a	39	n/a
Stikine	33	54	25	29

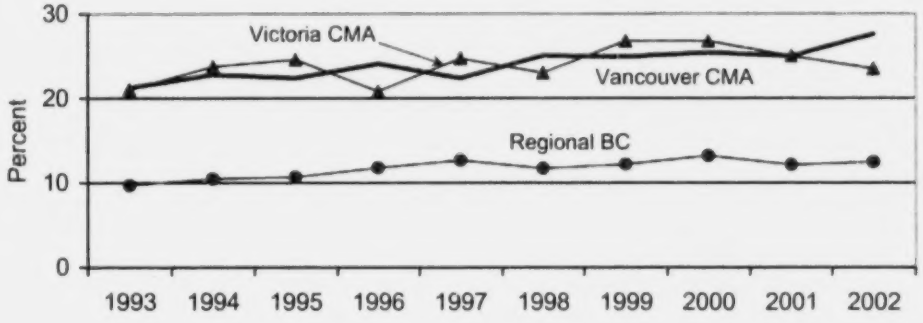
Source: BC Ministry of Education

The Aboriginal completion rate generally trails that for the non-Aboriginal population with differences ranging from sixty-two percentage points in Vancouver (82% vs. 20%) to eleven percentage points in the Rocky Mountain School District (82% vs. 71%). The one exception is in the Gulf Islands School District where the Aboriginal population has an 88% completion rate and the non-Aboriginal population has a 69% completion rate.

Performance Indicator 8 — BC Regional Comparison

University Completion

Percent of the Population (aged 25-54) with University Completion in Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of the population in British Columbia, aged 25 to 54, who have completed a university education. Excluded from the measure are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves.

Why it's Important

Though there are many different forms of post-secondary credentialing, university completion is an important indication of an area's efforts to build "top" academic, managerial and entrepreneurial skills necessary for the increasingly knowledge driven economy.

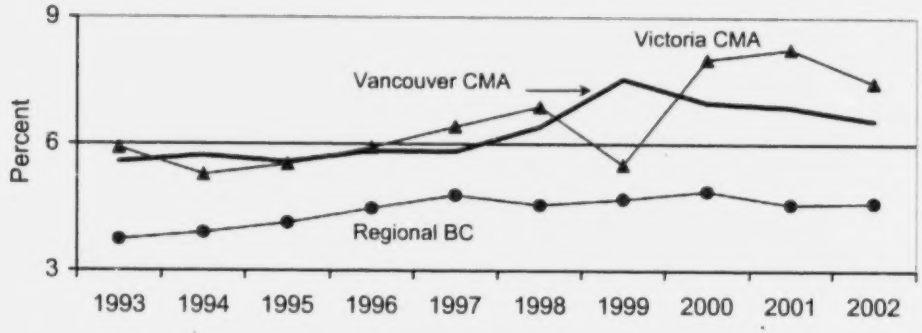
Analysis

The percentage of BC's population with a university education grew by 31.1% between 1993 and 2002. Over the same period, the Vancouver CMA had growth of 29.8%, the Victoria CMA had growth of 11.6%, and Regional BC had growth of 28.9% in the proportion of the population (aged 25-64) with a university education.

The proportion of the population with a university education was similar in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs over the period of analysis; the proportion in Regional BC was about half that of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. In 1993, the proportion in the Vancouver CMA was 21.2%, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 21.0%, and was 9.7% in Regional BC. In 2002, the Vancouver CMA's ratio was 27.6%, the Victoria CMA's was 23.5% while the proportion of the population with a university education in Regional BC was 12.5%.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations

Employment in the Natural and Applied Sciences (and Related Occupations) as a Percentage of Total Employment in Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of an area's total employment that is comprised of scientists and engineers.

Why it's Important

The number of scientists and engineers relative to total employment is a key "proxy" for the creation of high skill jobs and the attraction and retention of people who possess the knowledge and skill sets essential to the process of innovation and the creation of high paid employment.

Analysis

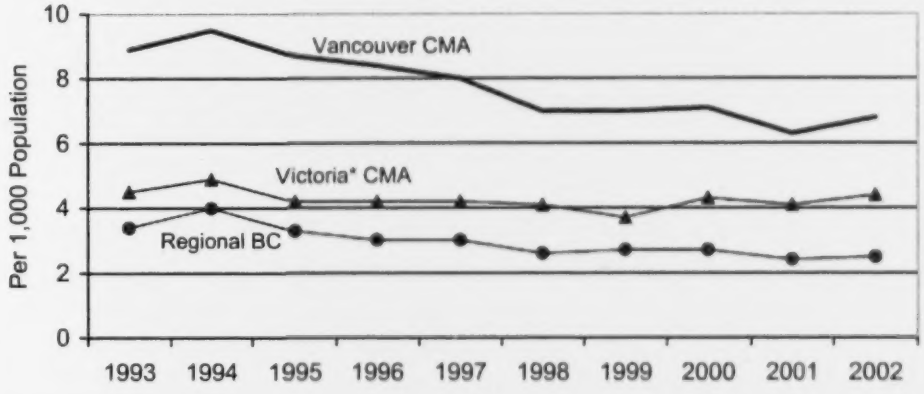
The proportion of BC's workforce active in the natural and applied sciences has increased between 1993 and 2002. The proportion in the Vancouver CMA increased by 17.6% (1.0 percentage points) from 5.58% in 1993 to 6.56% in 2002. The proportion in the Victoria CMA increased by 26.5% (1.6 percentage points) from 5.91% in 1993 to 7.47% in 2002. The proportion in Regional BC increased by 23.5% (0.9 percentage points) from 3.74% in 1993 to 4.62% in 2002.

Between 1993 and 2002, the average annual growth rate in the proportion of total employment represented by those employed in the natural and applied sciences was: 4.0% in the Vancouver CMA, 2.0% in the Victoria CMA, and 2.4% in Regional BC.

The Victoria CMA had the highest proportion of its workforce employed in natural and applied sciences in most of the years reviewed. On average, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 3.8% higher than the proportion in the Vancouver CMA and 46.6% higher than the proportion in Regional BC.

Net New Business Formation

Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population in Vancouver, Victoria*, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Finance and Superintendent of Bankruptcies.

Description

This indicator measures net business formation by subtracting the number of business bankruptcies from the number of businesses incorporated in a given year. "Business incorporations" include firms incorporated under the *Companies Act*, administered by the BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on as a business. "Business bankruptcies" are attributable to liabilities incurred resulting from commercial activities.

Why it's Important

The number of net new business formations is an important measure of economic and entrepreneurial activity.

Analysis (Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population)

In 2002, there were 2.5 net business incorporations per 1,000 population in Regional BC, 4.4 in the Victoria CMA and 6.8 in the Vancouver CMA. There were 2.3% fewer net business incorporations per 1,000 population in 1993 than in 2002 in the Victoria CMA, 23.9% fewer in 1993 than in 2002 in the Vancouver CMA and 27.3% fewer in Regional BC.

Net new business formations per 1,000 population peaked in 1994 and have fallen, on average, by 2.7% a year in the Vancouver CMA and by 2.9% a year in Regional BC. The Victoria CMA has seen a 0.2% average annual increase since the peak. The 7.8% increase in net new business formations per 1,000 population in BC between 2001 and 2002 is the largest increase since the 1992 to 1993 increase, building to the 1994 peak.

Analysis (Total Net New Business Formations)

Most of the net formations were in the Vancouver CMA. On average, between 1993 and 2002, the Vancouver CMA registered 70.8% of all net formations, the Victoria CMA registered 6.4%, and Regional BC registered the remaining 22.8%.

Notes: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District including the Gulf Islands for this indicator. Some of the information presented above differs from that in the 2001 and 2002 Reports in that it focuses on the net number of business formations relative to population.

Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education

Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada experience an economic gap with the broader population, with higher levels of unemployment and lower incomes. Educational achievement and enrollment rates also lag those of non-Aboriginal students.

While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it is narrowing. Data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses illustrate improvements between the employment and education related performance of the Aboriginal population and that of BC's Non-Aboriginal population. While comparisons with the general population are illustrative, it is also important to look within Aboriginal communities, and recognize improvements made relative to past performance.

Employment & Income

BC's Aboriginal population reported a 62.9% labour force participation rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, Non-Aboriginal BC residents reported a slightly higher participation rate (65.3%), a significantly higher employment rate (59.6%) and a significantly lower unemployment rate (8.5%). British Columbia's Aboriginal employment rate posted a strong gain (5.4%) between 1996 and 2001 and also a gain in participation rate. The Non-Aboriginal employment and participation rates fell by 0.8% and 1.8%, respectively. The employment rate gap between Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals fell from 14.3 percentage points (31.0%) in 1996 to 11.3 percentage points in 2001 (23.2%) in 2001. The participation rate gap fell from 4.6 to 2.4 percentage points (7.5% to 3.9%)

Employment and Participation Rates in BC, by population groups, ages 15-64

	Employment Rate			Participation Rate		
	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change
Aboriginal	46.2	48.7	5.4	61.9	62.9	1.6
Non-Aboriginal	60.5	60.0	(0.8)	66.5	65.3	(1.8)
Total	60.0	59.6	(0.7)	66.4	65.2	(1.8)
Gap: Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	14.3	11.3	n/a	4.6	2.4	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over is $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a median income of $13,242. This significantly lower median income among the Aboriginal community is on average 20.6% derived from government transfers, as compared to 11.8% for the general population.

A similar gap is evident when we consider *employment income* only. In 1995, on average, the Aboriginal population earned 64.7% as much as the Non-Aboriginal population. This gap narrowed to 67.4% in 2000 on the strength of a 9.9% growth in real earned income among the Aboriginal population and growth of 5.5% in real earned income in the Non-Aboriginal population.

Aboriginal Employment and Education (continued)

A related factor is the type of work performed by the Aboriginal population. Currently 10.9% of BC's Aboriginal labour force are in the 'agriculture and other resource industries' versus only 5.2% of BC's total labour force. Similar disparities exist in other industries such as 'business services' (19.6% general vs. 14.3% Aboriginal) and 'finance and real estate' (6.1% vs. 2.6% respectively). Occupational statistics show gaps similar to those present in the labour force figures. While 10.8% of the general BC population reports employment in 'management occupations' only 6.5% of Aboriginals do. Similar findings are true of occupations in business, finance, natural and applied sciences, and health.

Average Employment Earnings in BC, by population groups, $2000

	1995 ($2000)	2000 ($2000)	1995 - 2000 Change, $2000 Dollars	1995 - 2000 Percent Change
Average Employment Income				
Aboriginal	19,560	21,496	1,936	9.9
Non-Aboriginal	30,240	31,910	1,670	5.5
Total	29,934	31,552	1,618	5.4
Gap: Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal, $	10,680	10,414	n/a	n/a
Gap: Aboriginal as a % of Non-Aboriginal	64.7	67.4	n/a	n/a
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada				

Education

The Aboriginal population is young relative to BC's overall population. Ensuring that this growing number of Aboriginal youth are adequately educated and trained will be a vital step in reducing the community's current employment and income gap relative to the Non-Aboriginal population. Completion rates have been on the increase in BC in recent years for Aboriginals as well as Non-Aboriginals. Between 1998 and 2002, the Aboriginal population saw a 7.1 percentage point increase in its' completion rate while the Non-Aboriginal rate improved by 6.0%, narrowing the completion rate gap from 37.8 in 1998 to 36.7 in 2002.

Completion Rates in BC, by population groups

	1998	2000	2002	1998 - 2002 Change
Aboriginal	35.4	38.9	42.5	7.1
Non-Aboriginal	73.3	76.9	79.2	6.0
Total	70.5	74.0	76.2	5.7
Gap: Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	37.8	37.9	36.7	n/a
Sources: BC Ministry of Education; BC Stats				

IV. Environment, Health and Society

Regional Performance Indicators

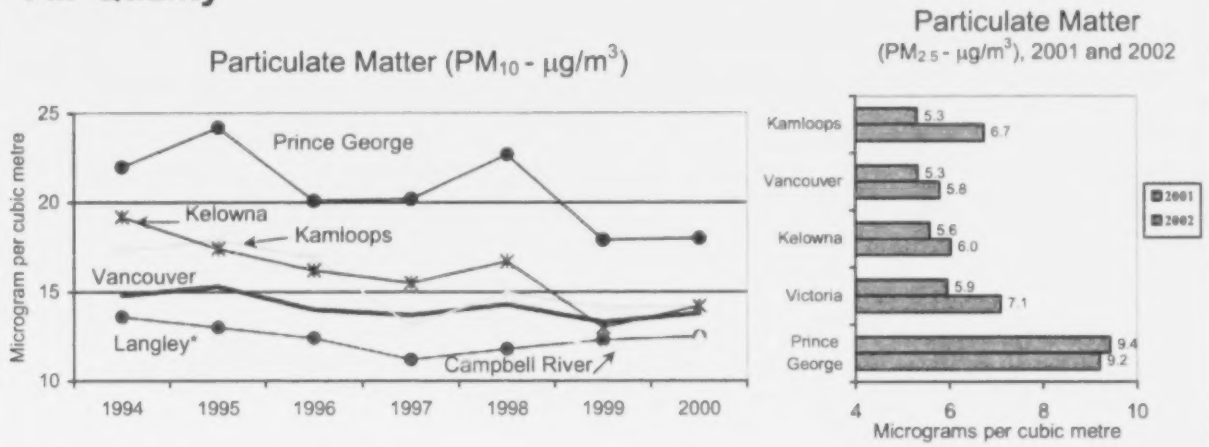
11. Air Quality
12. Wastewater Treatment
13. Cancer Mortality
14. Life Expectancy at Birth
15. Low Birth Weight
16. Personal and Property Crime
17. Low Income Incidence

Comparison of Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC
Environment, Health and Society

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2002	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	5.8	7.1	7.3	-
12. Wastewater Treatment	1999	% Pop. Served	57.4	N/A	46.3	-
13. Cancer Mortality	2002	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.5	6.2	5.3	-
14. Life Expectancy at Birth	2002	Years	81.5	80.9	79.8	-
15. Low Birth Weight Rate	2002	per 1,000 Live Births	53.5	57.9	50.7	+
16. Personal and Property Crime	2002	Incidents per 100 Pop.	8.2	6.7	7.4	+
17. Social Condition	2001	% of Families	19.4	15.3	13.5	+

Performance Indicator 11 — BC Regional Comparison

Air Quality



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particulates 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. There is a national initiative underway to switch to monitoring $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1994 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other sources emit fine particulates.

Why it's Important

Air quality has direct effects on human health. Fine particulates may affect breathing, aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense systems and damage lung tissue. Both premature mortality and emergency hospital visits may increase during times of high concentrations of fine particulates.

Analysis

Concentrations of particulate matter (PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$) are generally higher in communities outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Lower Fraser Valley. Of the six major centres in the PM_{10} chart above, Campbell River had the lowest particulate matter concentrations in 2000, at 12.4 μ g/m^3. Langley was next at 12.5 μ g/m^3, followed by Vancouver at 13.8 μ g/m^3, Kamloops and Kelowna at 14.2 μ g/m^3, and Prince George at 18.0 μ g/m^3 of fine particulates.

Air quality, as measured by the annual mean concentration of PM_{10} particulates, improved in Vancouver, Langley, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Prince George between 1994 and 2000 by at least 6.8% (Vancouver) and by as much as 26.1% (Kelowna). Campbell River's air quality increased by 10.0% between 1998 and 2000.

Vancouver had the lowest concentrations of particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in 2002 at 5.8 μ g/m^3. Kelowna's concentration was the next lowest 6.0 μ g/m^3. Of the other cities that had data, Kamloops and Victoria were close at 6.7 μ g/m^3 and 7.1 μ g/m^3, respectively, and Prince George had the highest concentration of particulate matter at 9.2 μ g/m^3.

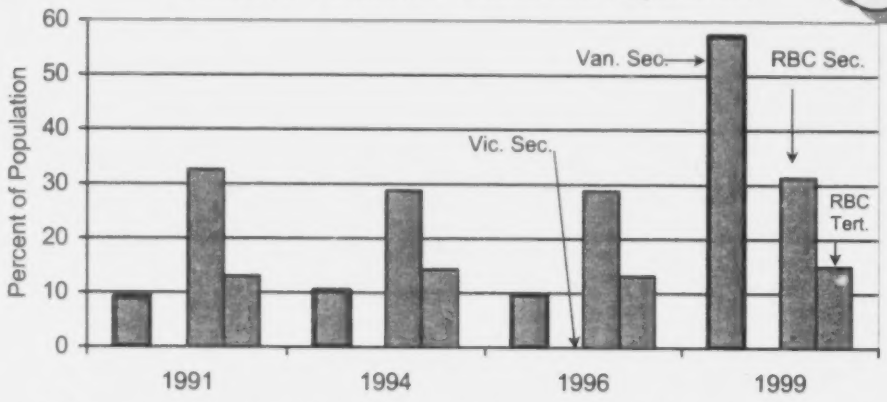
Note: *1995 and 1998 data for Langley are interpolated.

Performance Indicator 12 — BC Regional Comparison

Wastewater Treatment

Not Updated; see note below

Service by Secondary or Tertiary Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; Environment Canada; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of the population in BC that is served by sewers that have secondary or tertiary wastewater treatment facilities. Data is available for Vancouver (the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Lower Fraser Valley), Victoria and Regional BC.

Wastewater is treated in four steps: preliminary and primary treatments filter solid material, secondary treatment removes greater suspended material, and tertiary treatment aims to remove substances such as contaminants.

Why it's Important

Wastewater consists of human waste and harmful substances such as motor oil, pesticide residue, paint thinner, pharmaceuticals and solvents that threaten human health and ecological balance. Municipal wastewater is one of the largest sources of pollution in Canadian waters.

Analysis

In 1991, only 9.1% of Vancouver's population was served by secondary wastewater treatment facilities. By 1999, this had improved to 57.4%. None of Vancouver's wastewater is treated by tertiary facilities.

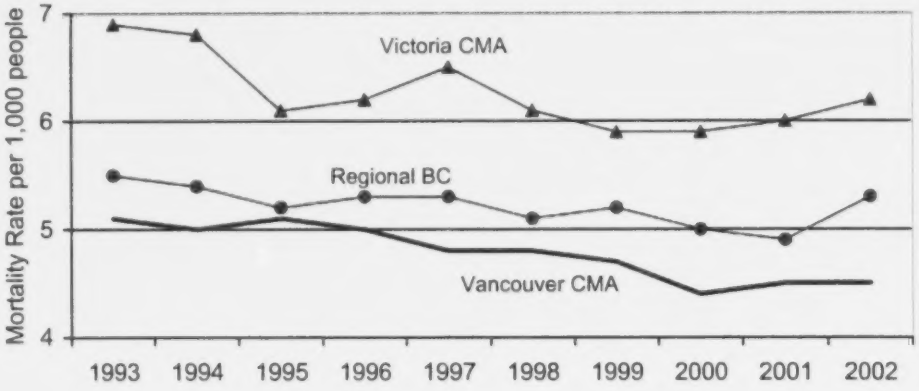
Victoria has no secondary or tertiary wastewater treatment.

In 1991, 32.6% of Regional BC's population was served by secondary wastewater treatment facilities and 13.1% was served by tertiary treatment facilities. Coverage in Regional BC changed little between 1991 and 1999. In 1999, 31.3% of Regional BC's population was served by secondary wastewater treatment facilities and 15.0% was served by tertiary treatment facilities.

Note: Wastewater treatment data is not available for every year as it is based on a survey conducted every three years by Environment Canada; new data should be available in the Spring of 2004.

Cancer Mortality

Cancer Mortality Rate for the Over 44 Population for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells form in human organs or tissue and grow to form a tumor. Two-thirds of all cancers are caused by a person's lifestyle, such as diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking habits. This indicator is a proxy for an area's propensity to make healthy lifestyle choices. Fully 95% of cancer deaths occur after the age of 45 years. The indicator is the total number of cancer deaths per 1,000 people for those aged 45 years and older.

Why it's Important

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. Health Canada estimates that there were as many as 65,300 cancer deaths in 2001. Approximately 40% of men and 35% of women will develop cancer. Fully 25% of men and 20% of women will die of cancer. Tobacco use is the leading cause of cancer deaths (30%) and is responsible for approximately 85% of lung cancer cases.

Analysis

Cancer mortality rates fell in the Vancouver CMA by 12.5% between 1993 and 2002, from 5.1 to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 people aged 45 years and older. Similarly, rates fell by 10.4% in the Victoria CMA and by 3.9% in Regional BC over this time period. Of the ten year-over-year changes analysed, the Vancouver CMA's rate increased twice, the rate in Regional BC increased four times, and the cancer mortality rate in the Victoria CMA increased six times.

On average, over the period 1993 through 2002, the cancer mortality rate in the Victoria CMA was 30.4% higher than the rate in the Vancouver CMA and 19.7% higher than the rate in Regional BC.

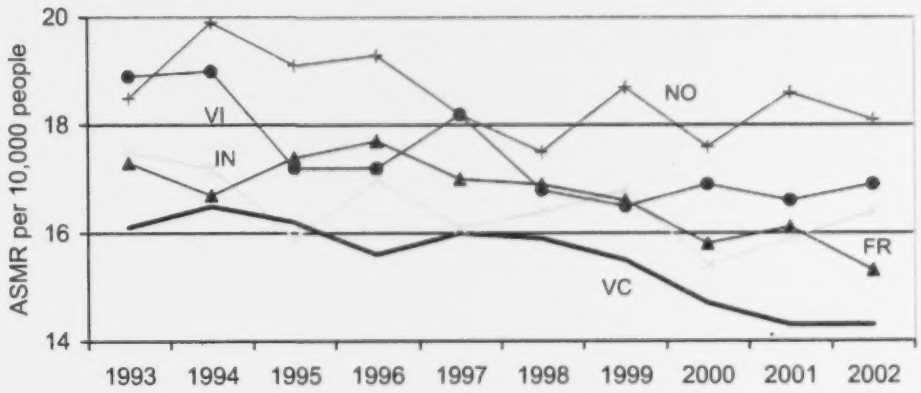
In 1997, lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer related mortality for both men and women. Prostate and colorectal cancers are the next highest causes of cancer related death in men, while breast and colorectal cancers are the next highest causes of cancer related deaths in women.*

Note: *BC Cancer Mortality Trends 1977 - 1997, BC Cancer Agency, March 1999.

Performance Indicator 13 | Supplemental Information: By Health Authority

Cancer Mortality

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2002 Rank	1993 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1993 - 2002 Average	1993 - 2002 Minimum	1993 - 2002 Maximum
Interior	IN	3	16.5	2	15.4	17.5
Fraser	FR	2	16.7	3	15.3	17.7
Vancouver Coastal	VC	1	15.5	1	14.3	16.5
Vancouver Island	VI	4	17.4	4	16.5	19.0
Northern	NO	5	18.6	5	17.5	19.9
British Columbia			16.6		15.7	17.4

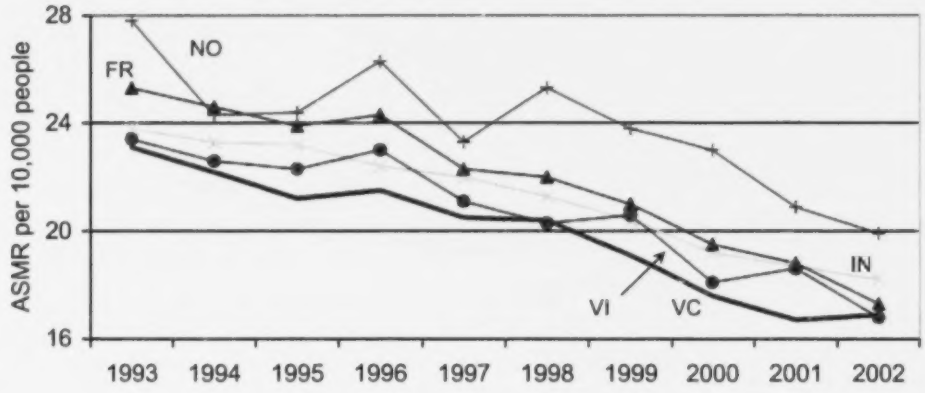
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

Over the period 1993 to 2002, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate of 14.3 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest cancer mortality rate for 2002 (18.1 deaths per 10,000 population) and had the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1993 through 2002 at 18.6 deaths per 10,000 population.

The cancer mortality rate in 2002 is lower in every Health Authority than in 1993. The largest decrease (11.7%) was in the Fraser Health Authority while the smallest decrease (2.6%) was in the Northern Health Authority. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 9.9% lower in 2002 than in 1993.

Mortality from Cardiovascular Disease

Age Standardized Mortality Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

The general term cardiovascular disease includes all diseases of the circulatory system including acute myocardial infarction, ischemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, arrhythmias, high blood pressure and stroke. Cardiovascular disease is the cause of death of over one-third of Canadians.

Why it's Important

Heart disease has a major impact on an individual's quality of life, including chronic pain or discomfort, activity restriction, disability, and unemployment.

Cardiovascular Disease Mortality by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2002 Rank	1993 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1993 - 2002 Average	1993 - 2002 Minimum	1995 - 2002 Maximum
Interior	IN	4	21.2	3	18.2	23.8
Fraser	FR	3	21.9	4	17.3	25.3
Vancouver Coastal	VC	2	19.9	1	16.7	23.1
Vancouver Island	VI	1	20.7	2	16.8	23.4
Northern	NO	5	23.9	5	19.9	27.8
British Columbia			21.1		17.4	24.1

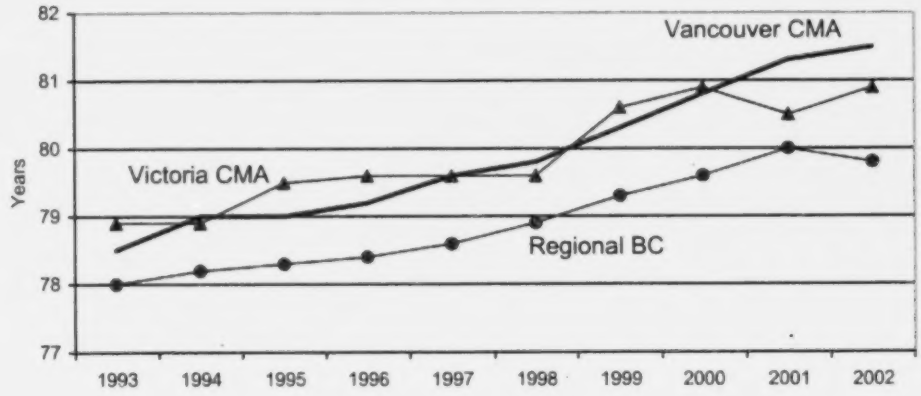
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The lowest 2002 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (16.8 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Island Health Authority; the highest (19.9) was in the Northern Health Authority.

Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2002 than in 1993 all across BC. The smallest 1993 to 2002 decrease (23.4%) in mortality was in the Interior Health Authority while the largest decrease (31.5%) was in the Fraser Health Authority.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life Expectancy at Birth for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a child is expected to live based on the mortality rates prevailing at the child's birth. Factors affecting life expectancy include access to health care, diet, environment, wealth and economic development.

Why it's Important

This is a key indicator measuring the overall health of citizens in a jurisdiction. An increasing life expectancy at birth indicates that the overall health status of the population is improving while a decreasing life expectancy indicates a general deterioration in a population's health status.

Analysis

Life expectancy at birth in the Vancouver CMA increased from 78.5 years in 1993 to 81.5 years in 2002, a 3.8% improvement. Life expectancy at birth in the Victoria CMA increased from 78.9 years in 1993 to 80.9 years in 2002, a 2.5% improvement. Life expectancy at birth in Regional BC increased from 78.0 years in 1993 to 79.8 years in 2002, a 2.2% improvement. Life expectancy at birth in BC increased from 78.3 years in 1993 to 80.7 years in 2002, a 3.0% improvement.

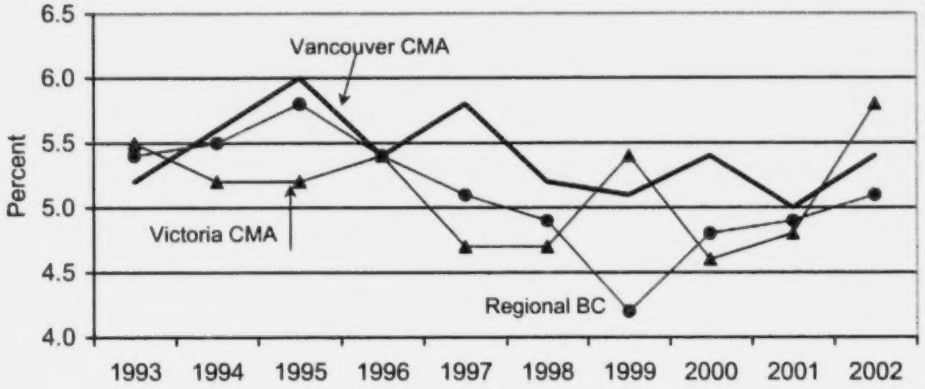
On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 4 months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1993 and 2002. Similarly, it increased on average, by 3 months per year in the Victoria CMA, by 2 ½ months a year in Regional BC, and by 3 ½ months a year in BC as a whole.

Year-to-year decreases in life expectancy at birth are rare. Of the ten year-to-year changes in the 1993 through 2002 period, there was one decrease in the Vancouver CMA and BC as a whole while there were two in the Victoria CMA and in Regional BC. The largest of these decreases was a five month decline in Victoria between 2000 and 2001.

Note: BC regional life expectancy data provided by the BC Vital Statistics Agency is more current than provincial or national data provided by Statistics Canada.

Low Birth Weight

Low Birth Weight for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered to be low birth weight infants. This indicator presents the ratio of low weight births (birth weight less than 2,500 grams) to total live births. Factors that contribute to low birth weight are socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits. This indicator serves as a proxy for overall health and social condition.

Why it's Important

Low birth weight newborns have a substantially higher rate of post-birth illness and death. Long-term health problems, increased hospitalization rates and disabilities are also associated with low birth weight.

Analysis

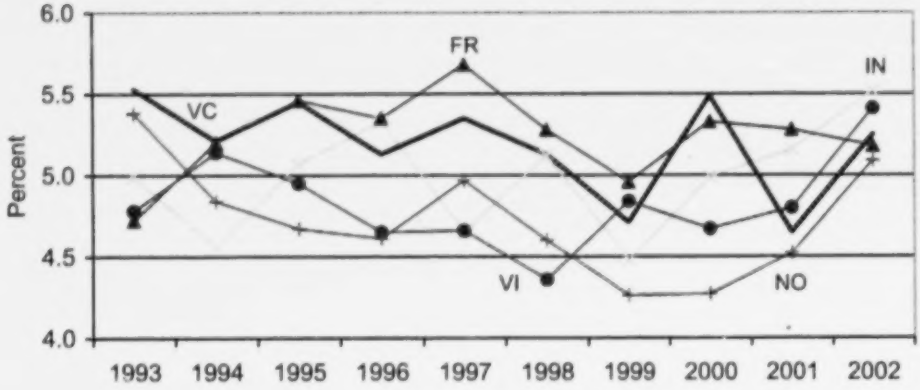
In 2002, 5.4% of live births were "low birth weight" in the Vancouver CMA, 5.8% were low birth weight in the Victoria CMA, and 5.1% of live births had birth weight below 2,500 grams (the low weight threshold) in Regional BC.

The low birth weight ratio has been fairly volatile in all three regions with the difference from minimum to maximum values ranging from 20.6% in the Vancouver CMA to 37.3% in Regional BC. That said, the average values for the three regions for the period 1993 through 2002 are quite close. The smallest difference being 1.0% between Regional BC and the Victoria CMA and the largest difference being 6.5% between the Vancouver CMA and Regional BC.

In general, the ratio of low weight births to total live births increased in the early 1990s in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and Regional BC, fell during the mid and late 1990s and increased between 2001 and 2002. The ratio is slightly higher in 2002 than it was in 1993 in the Vancouver CMA (by 2.0%) and the Victoria CMA (by 4.5%) and lower in Regional BC (5.9%) and in BC as a whole (1.1%).

Low Birth Weight

Low Birth Weight for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Low Weight Births by Health Authority, percent

Health Authority	Abbr.	2002 Rank	1993 - 2002 Average	Rank for 1993 - 2002 Average	1993 - 2002 Minimum	1995 - 2002 Maximum
Interior	IN	5	5.0	3	4.5	5.5
Fraser	FR	2	5.2	5	4.7	5.7
Vancouver Coastal	VC	3	5.2	4	4.6	5.5
Vancouver Island	VI	4	4.8	2	4.4	5.4
Northern	NO	1	4.7	1	4.3	5.4
British Columbia			5.1		4.8	5.3

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

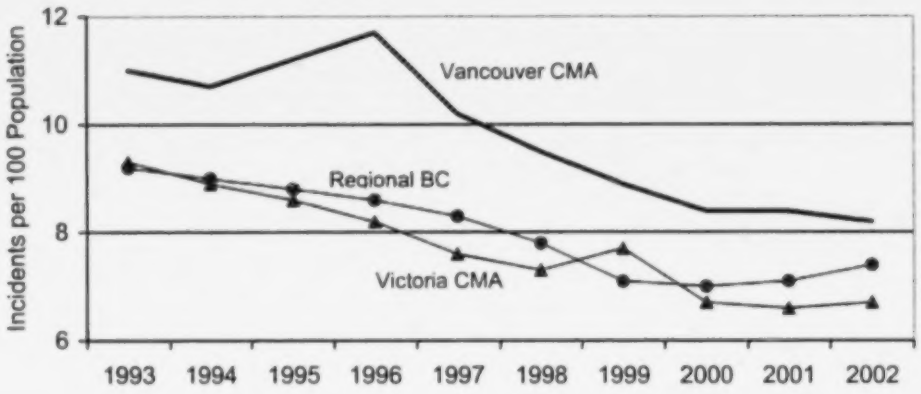
The Interior Health Authority had the highest 2002 rate of low weight births (5.5%). The Fraser Health Authority had the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1993 and 2002, at 5.2%.

The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2002 (5.1%) and the lowest 1993 through 2002 average rate (4.7%).

No clear trend in the incidence of low weight births is evident over the period 1993 through 2002. The 2002 rate of low weight births was below the 1993 rate in the Vancouver Coastal and Northern Health Authorities, while they were higher in the Fraser, Interior and Vancouver Island Health Authorities. The rate has fallen in the last two years in the Fraser Health Authority, increased over the last two years in the Northern, Interior and Vancouver Island Health Authorities and been mixed in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

Personal and Property Crime

Personal and Property Crime Incidents for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Public Security and Solicitor General.

Description

Personal and property crime rates are the number of reported incidents, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g. theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Why it's Important

The crime rate is both a reflection of community safety and security and an indicator of other social and economic problems. It can reflect lack of opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction. Crime is very costly to society, from both individual and community perspectives

Analysis

In 2002, the Vancouver CMA experienced 8.2 crime incidents for every 100 residents. This was higher than Regional BC which had 7.4 crimes per 100 residents, or the Victoria CMA with 6.7 incidents per 100 residents. On average, between 1993 and 2002, crime rates in the Vancouver CMA were 21.9% higher than in the Victoria CMA and 19.4% higher than in Regional BC.

Crime rates dropped in every year between 1993 and 2000 but increased in 2000 and 2001 in Regional BC. Crime rates fell in every year between 1993 and 2001 in the Victoria CMA but increased in 2002. In general, they also dropped in the Vancouver CMA over this time period although they increased between 1994 and 1996 and showed no change between 2000 and 2001. Overall, between 1993 and 2002, crime rates fell by 28.0% in the Victoria CMA, by 25.0% in the Vancouver CMA and by 19.1% in Regional BC.

Between 2001 and 2002, crime rates increased by 2.4% in the Victoria CMA and by 5.1% in Regional BC but fell by 3.1% in the Vancouver CMA.

Crime Rate by Municipality

Smithers had the highest overall crime rate* in BC in 2002, followed by Williams Lake, Courtenay, Fort St. John and Whistler. The lowest overall crime rate in BC was in Spallumcheen followed by Goldstream, North Saanich, Central Saanich and Oak Bay.

Smithers** saw the largest increase in its crime rate with 40.9% increase from 181 incidents per 1,000 population to 255 incidents. Similarly, Summerland has witnessed a large increase in its crime rate (36.7%). Merritt (18.3%), Nelson (16.2%) and Fort St. John (12.1%) also had large increases but these were less than half those seen in Smithers and Summerland.

Crime Rates per 1,000 population

	1993	1998	2002	1993 – 2002 Percentage Change
Smithers	181	207	255	40.9
Summerland	49	51	67	36.7
Merritt	186	201	220	18.3
Nelson	142	117	165	16.2
Fort St. John	207	190	232	12.1
Richmond	124	85	77	(37.9)
Saanich	93	72	55	(40.9)
Parksville	211	121	123	(41.7)
Central Saanich	89	62	47	(47.2)
Sidney	134	85	56	(58.2)

Source: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Municipal Crime Rate Report

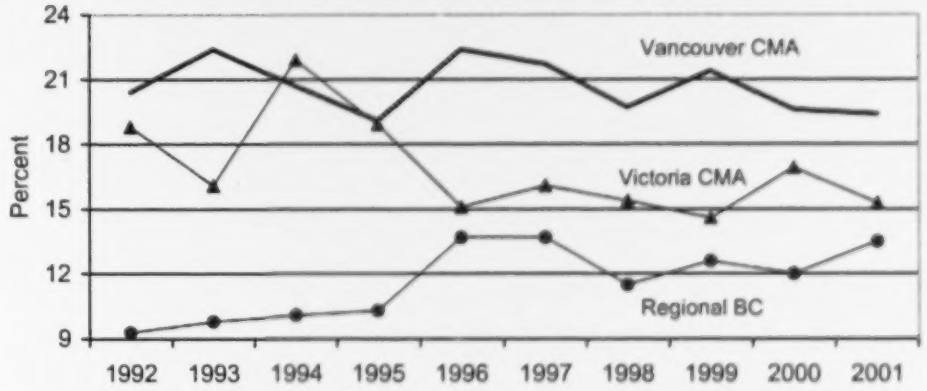
In contrast, Sidney saw its crime rate plummet by 58.2% from 134 incidents per 1,000 population in 1993 to 56 incidents per 1,000 population in 2002. Large decreases were also seen in Central Saanich (47.2%), Parksville (41.7%), Saanich (40.9%) and Richmond (37.9%).

While caution must be used in interpreting these data, it is interesting to note that, with the exception of Summerland, those Municipalities with large increases in the above table are also at or near the top of the rankings for overall crime rates.

Note: *The table above as well as the rest of the information in this Topic Box are based on the percentage change in the overall crime rate between 1993 and 2002. These crime rate data are not designed to highlight differences in crime rates among Municipalities, but they can show the trend within a municipality. **While Smithers had high crime rate in 2002, this may be an unusual year – its rate was in the low 200s in 2000 and 2001.

Low Income Incidence

Families and Unattached Individuals with Income Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Off for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description*

This measure is the ratio of families and unattached individuals with low incomes (after-tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Why it's Important

There are a number of negative outcomes for families experiencing low incomes. People with low income may experience more physical and mental health problems, rely more on charity, attain lower levels of education, or have higher secondary school drop out rates.

Analysis

The Vancouver CMA had the highest low income incidence in 2001 with a rate of 19.4%. This compares to the Victoria CMA at 15.3% and Regional BC at 13.5%. The low income ratio was highest in the Vancouver CMA for most years reviewed.

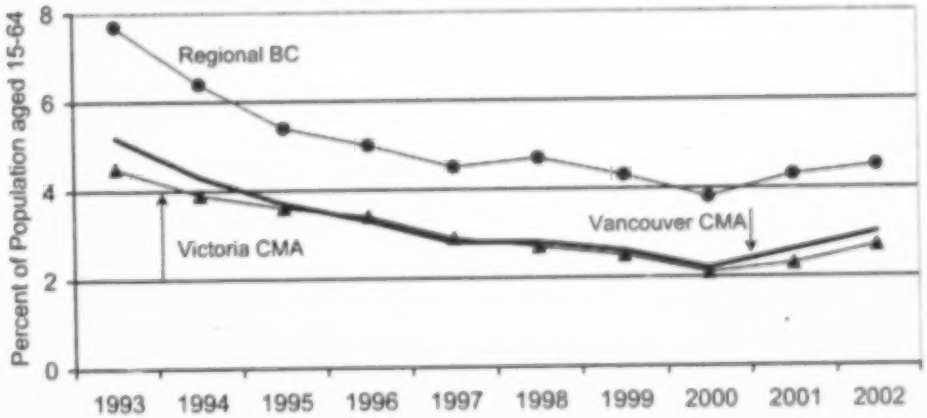
In 2001, the percentage of Vancouver families and unattached individuals below the after-tax Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) was 4.6% (0.9 percentage points) lower than it was in 1992. There were 44.5% (4.2 percentage points) more people below LICO in Regional BC in 2001 than in 1992. The 2001 ratio in the Victoria CMA was 18.6% (3.5 percentage points) lower than in 1992 while the ratio for all of BC was 4.8% (0.8 percentage points) higher in 2001 than in 1992.

In 2001, the low income ratio in the Vancouver CMA was 6.1% (1.3 percentage points) lower than the city's 10 year average. The BC ratio was slightly lower than its 10 year average, the ratio in the Victoria CMA was 9.5% (1.6 percentage points) lower than its average and Regional BC's ratio was higher by 15.9% (1.9 percentage points).

Note: *For further discussion of the LICO, please see the Supplemental Information box on page 91 of Volume I.

Employment Insurance Recipients

Employment Insurance Recipients for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 15-64. Employment Insurance (EI) helps unemployed Canadians between jobs by providing temporary financial assistance while they look for work, upgrade their skills, are pregnant, care for a newborn (or adopted child), or are sick.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the labour force not able to find employment is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction. When an economy is growing strongly, new jobs are created and, unless the labour force grows enough to offset the growth in jobs, the unemployment rate will fall and there should be fewer people collecting Employment Insurance benefits.

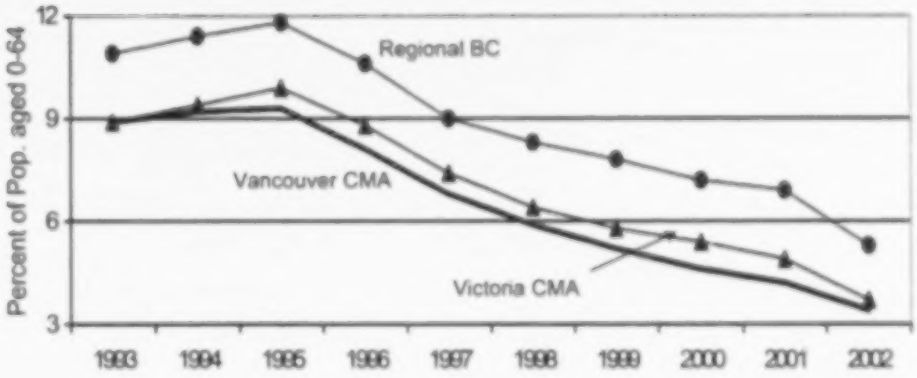
Analysis

The proportion of the population (aged 15-64) receiving EI benefits is higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver or Victoria CMAs. On average, between 1993 and 2002, the ratio was 57.6% higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver CMA. More than half of all EI recipients in BC are outside of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. On average, between 1993 and 2002, 42.4% of all BC recipients were in the Vancouver CMA, 6.2% were in the Victoria CMA, and 51.5% were in Regional BC.

The number of BC EI beneficiaries peaked at 138,597 in 1992. In 1992 there were 8,681 EI beneficiaries in the Victoria CMA (4.8% of the population aged 15-64), 59,199 beneficiaries in the Vancouver CMA (5.4% of the population aged 15-64), and 70,717 in Regional BC (8.1% of the population aged 15-64). Unemployment Insurance was changed to Employment Insurance on July 1st, 1996. The program changed along with the name – eligibility for the program was altered from 'weeks-based' to 'hours-based' and eligibility requirements were tightened.

Income Assistance Recipients

Income Assistance Recipients for Vancouver, Victoria, and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Income Assistance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 0-64. The Income Assistance (IA) program in BC provides essential income support, employment and training support, and other benefits to a wide range of people who need temporary assistance and meet eligibility requirements under the *BC Benefits (Income Assistance) Act*. The program is strictly limited to those in need. Eligibility is determined by stringent income and asset testing.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the population collecting income assistance benefits (commonly referred to as welfare) is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction and may also indicate problems in the incentive structure of the income assistance programs available within a jurisdiction.

Analysis

The general pattern of large increases in the income assistance recipients-to-population ratio in the early 1990s followed by even larger decreases in the ratio in the mid-to-late 1990s displayed in the above chart was seen all across the country.

The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits has followed similar patterns in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and in Regional BC. The proportion peaked in 1995 at 9.3% in the Vancouver CMA, 9.9% in the Victoria CMA, and 11.8% in Regional BC. Since 1995, the number of beneficiaries as a percent of the population (aged 0-64) has fallen by 63.6% in the Vancouver CMA, 62.9% in the Victoria CMA, and 55.5% in Regional BC. The proportion of the population collecting income assistance has consistently been higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver or Victoria CMAs.

Aboriginal Population and Health

British Columbia's Aboriginal population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. Similar to employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Aboriginal population is showing improvement in key health outcome indicators relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Aboriginal and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight.

As of 2001, BC's Aboriginal population numbered 156,443 individuals, or 3.8% of the total BC population. While the province's Non-Aboriginal population grew by 4.9% between 1996 and 2001, the Aboriginal population grew by 14.2%, almost three times as much. More rapid population growth among the province's Aboriginal community has been reflected in an age distribution that varies markedly from that of BC's overall population. The median age of British Columbia's total population is 38.4 years, 81.9% of the population is aged 15 and over, while 13.6% is 65 or over. In contrast, the median age of the Aboriginal population is 26.8 years with 69.4% of the population being 15 years of age or over, and 4.3% being age 65 and over.

Population by Group in BC

	1991	1996	1991 – 1996 Percent Change	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change	1991 – 2001 Percent Change
Aboriginal	107,323	137,020	27.7	156,443	14.2	45.8
Non-Aboriginal	3,266,141	3,737,256	14.4	3,922,004	4.9	20.1
Total	3,373,464	3,874,276	14.8	4,078,447	5.3	20.9

Sources: BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics; Statistics Canada

Life Expectancy at Birth

While there are a variety of indicators available that provide some measure of the overall health of a population, life expectancy at birth is one of the most widely used. Increases in a child's probable life span, as judged at the time of birth based on current mortality rates, provide an indication of positive improvements in a society's general health.

Currently, the average child born in BC can expect to live 80.6 years. This life span is slightly higher than the Canadian average of 79.4 years and ranks above any other Canadian province or territory. However, a child born in the province's Status Indian* community can expect an average life span of 76.7 years – two years and eight months less than the Canadian average and eight months less than the lowest ranked province, Newfoundland and Labrador.

While the Status Indian community's life expectancy lags that of BC's general population, it has made marked improvement in the past decade with today's rates a full 13.2% higher than just nine years ago when the average child born in the Status Indian community was expected to live 67.8 years. While the rate of change in this measure has slowed as life expectancy nears that of the general population, it is still much higher than the improvements being seen by the rest of the BC population.

Note: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses.

Aboriginal Population and Health (continued)

Life Expectancy at Birth in BC, in years, by population groups						
	1992*	1996*	1992* - 1996* Percent Change	2000*	1996* - 2000* Percent Change	1992* - 2000* Percent Change
Status Indians	67.8	73.9	9.0	76.7	3.8	13.2
Total	78.4	78.9	0.6	80.6	2.2	2.8
Gap: Total less Status Indians	10.6	5.0	n/a	3.9	n/a	n/a
Sources: BC Vital Statistics; **Notes**: 1992*=1991-93, 1996*=1995-97, 2000*=1999-01						

Low Birth Weight

The Status Indian* community reported a rate of 54.2 low weight births per 1,000 live births in 2001. This is 8.8% higher than the rate for the general population, 49.8 low weight births per 1,000 live births. Year to year data variations mean that in some years rates of low weight newborns appear similar for both populations. However, an average of low birth weight rates over the period 1991 through 2001 yields an average rate of 56.5 for the Status Indian population versus 50.4 for the general population, a difference of 12.1%.

Similar to the total population, the rate for Status Indian low weight births varies by Health Authority. Northern Health Authority Status Indians reported a 41.2 low weight birth rate while Status Indians in the Fraser Health Authority reported a rate of 65.2 low weight births per 1,000 live births.

Despite ongoing disparities with the general BC population, low birth weight measures – as with life expectancy at birth – have been improving over time within the Status Indian population. Rates per 1,000 birth have decreased from 58.4 in 1991 to 54.2 in 2001 and have shown an average annual improvement of 0.6%. Although the decline has not been steady, the longer term trend is one of improvement in this measure.

Low Birth Weight Rate in BC, by population groups						
	1991	1996	1991 – 1996 Percent Change	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change	1991 - 2001 Percent Change
Status Indians	58.4	58.0	(0.6)	54.2	(6.6)	(7.2)
Total	48.3	52.6	8.9	49.8	(5.3)	3.1
Gap: Status Indians less Total	10.1	5.5	n/a	4.4	n/a	n/a
Sources: BC Vital Statistics						

Note: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses.

Appendices

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A. Board Members, Staff, and Advisory Group Members

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President & CEO
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Credit Union Central of British Columbia

Dr. Rick Harris
Telus Professor of Economics
Simon Fraser University

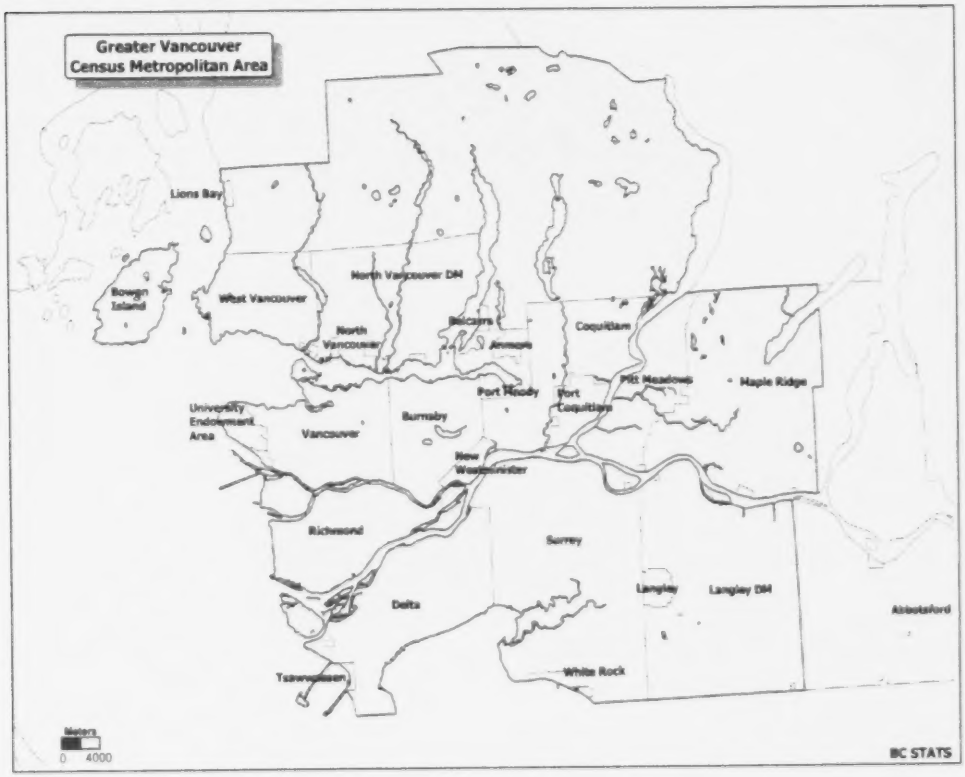
B. Methodology

British Columbia consists of a number of regional economies that differ significantly from each other in both industrial structure and social composition. This volume of the 2003 Benchmarking Report includes information comparing "*large urban British Columbia*" (here defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and the Victoria CMA) and "*Regional British Columbia*" (the rest of the province) on a variety of economic, social and environmental indicators. Data limitations prevent comparisons at a sub-provincial level for many of the indicators included within the core benchmarking framework. Some measures reported in this volume match those used for the province as a whole. Where appropriate, proxy indicators are used when sub-provincial data is not available for the core target and performance indicators. Additions to the benchmarking framework introduced in this volume include analyses of some regional performance indicators by Development Region or Health Authority as well as "Topic Boxes" that discuss facts relevant to the regional performance indicators.

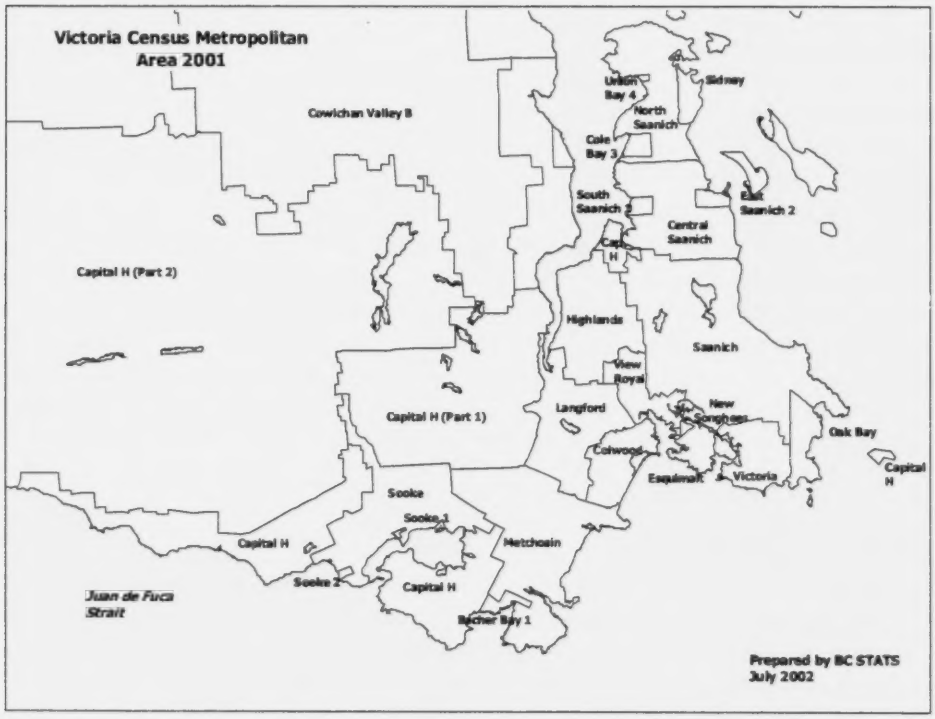
Census Metropolitan Areas

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a Census Metropolitan Area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. The Vancouver and Victoria CMAs are displayed below and on the following pages.

Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area



Victoria Census Metropolitan Area

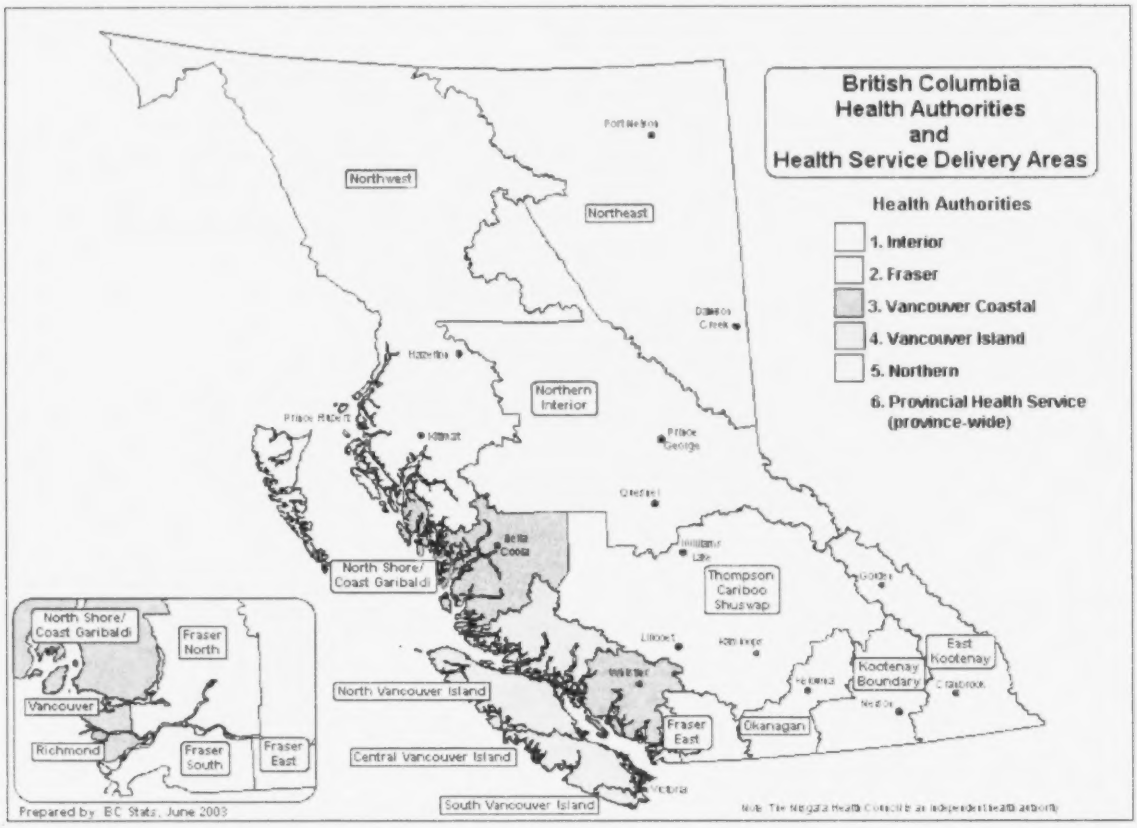


Development Regions

BC Stats' Development Regions coincide with Statistics Canada's Economic Regions. An economic region is a grouping of complete census divisions (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity. British Columbia's Development Regions are as follows: Vancouver Island-Coast, Mainland-Southwest, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako and Northeast.

Health Authorities

There are six Health Authorities in BC: Interior, Fraser, Vancouver-Coastal, Vancouver Island, Northern and the province-wide Provincial Health Service.



Additions and Changes

Additions

As well as separating internal BC comparisons from external BC vs. state and countries comparisons and presenting them in this volume, the internal comparisons have been expanded. Regional performance indicators one and two, employment rate and taxfilers' employment income are analysed by development region as well as the usual Vancouver CMA, Victoria CMA and Regional BC analysis. Similarly, regional performance indicators 13 and 15, cancer mortality and low birth weight, are analyzed by health authority and regional performance indicator 16, crime rate, is analyzed by Municipality.

The 2002 regional benchmarking included two topic boxes, this volume expands that number to six, with the inclusion of information on: school completion rate, Aboriginal employment, income & education, cardiovascular disease mortality and Aboriginal population and health.

An analysis of British Columbia's urban to rural population movements is included as a special section within this volume.

Changes

The only significant change to the regional analysis, other than the additions described above, is the conversion of regional performance indicators two through six and ten to account for population. Specifically, these indicators are now analyzed relative to population whereas previously they had been presented as a "percent of total." The percent of total approach was felt to be justified as the Lower Mainland and BC excluding the Lower Mainland had relatively equal population shares. More accurate information available from the Census as well as the agglomeration effects described in section II of this volume made this change necessary.

List of Acronyms

BC Regions:

- DR – Development Region
- HA – Health Authority
- CMA– Census Metropolitan Area
- GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District (Vancouver)
- LFV – Lower Fraser Valley
- CRD – Capital Regional District (Victoria)
- RBC – Regional BC

Statistical:

- IA – Income Assistance
- EI – Employment Insurance
- ASMR – Age Standardized Mortality Rate

C. Glossary of Terms

Economy, Innovation and Education

Employment
Employment is the number of persons working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment to Population Ratio (15 to 64)
The employment to population ratio (15 to 64) is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 (i.e. working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment Income
Employment income is the aggregate of employment and self-employment income reported on tax returns as reported by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. For tax purposes employment/self-employment income includes wages and salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, commissions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Manufacturing Shipments
Manufacturing shipments data is collected through surveys or administrative records of all manufacturers in Canada. The value of manufacturing shipments is the net selling value of goods made by the reporting establishments, or for their own accounts, from their own materials. Excluded are discounts, returns, allowances, taxes, duties, returnable containers, and contracted transportation charges for outward shipments. Included are transfers to other establishments of same companies, value of non-returnable containers, and book value of goods produced and shipped for the first time on a rental basis. Also included are consignment shipments to other countries.

Retail Sales
Retail sales are the aggregate sales made through retail locations. Excluded are direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machines, door-to-door, printed materials sold directly by the publisher such as newspapers and magazines, book and record clubs, and sales by businesses whose major activity is not retailing. However, catalogue/mail-order sales of businesses classed as "general merchandise stores" are included. Sales include all receipts of retailers including food serving, repairs and rentals net of returns, adjustments and discounts. Excluded are sales taxes and non-operating revenue.

Housing Starts
Housing starts is the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when the footing is installed. All new dwelling units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Smaller areas are sampled and an estimate for these is included in the information reported.

Non-Residential Building Permits
Non-residential building permits are the value of building permits issued by municipalities and regional districts and reported to Statistics Canada for industrial, commercial, and institutional and government new buildings as well as alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Secondary School Graduation Rate
The secondary school graduation rate is the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the indicated year including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams expressed as a percentage of the population 18 years old on July 1 of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

University Completion Rate
The university completion rate is the number of persons aged 25 to 54 with a university degree expressed as a percentage of the population between 25 and 54 years of age. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Natural and Applied Sciences Employment as a Percent of Total
Natural and applied sciences employment as a percent of total is number of persons employed in occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences expressed as a percentage of total employment. Included here are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts and programmers and associated technical occupations. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Business Incorporations
Business incorporations are the number of firms incorporated under the Companies Act, BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on business.

Business Bankruptcies
Business bankruptcies are the number of bankruptcies which are chiefly attributable to liabilities incurred as a result of carrying on a commercial venture or business and includes partnerships, proprietorships and limited companies. This is under federal bankruptcy legislation.

Population
Population refers to the number of Canadians and Non-permanent Residents who's usual place of residence is within the referenced geographic boundaries.

Environment, Health and Society

Air Quality
Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulates in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Most air quality monitors measure fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Provinces began monitoring $PM_{2.5}$ particulates in 2001.

Direct costs to health care resulting from poor air quality may be significant. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. Monitoring for PM_{10} is relatively new in Canada and most continuous monitoring stations do not have more than 5 or 6 years of data.

Wastewater Treatment
The amount of wastewater treated in Canada from residential and industrial origins. Wastewater consists of human waste and harmful substances such as motor oil, pesticide residue, paint thinner, pharmaceuticals and solvents that threaten human health and ecological balance.

Wastewater may be treated in four steps: preliminary and primary treatment filters solid material, secondary treatment removes greater fecal material, and tertiary treatment aims to remove substances such as contaminants.

Cancer Mortality
Cancer mortality is the total number of cancer deaths expressed as a percentage of the population 45 years of age and older. Since age-standardised data is not available sub-provincially, and as 95% of cancer deaths are to persons 45 years and older, this base was used to calculate the percentages and thus reduce the distortion caused by differing age structure in the sub-provincial areas.

Life Expectancy at Birth
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of remaining years of life at birth based on current mortality rates.

Low Birth Weight
The low birth weight rate is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births.

Personal and Property Crime Rate
The personal and property crime rate is the number of incidents, based on the most serious offence, known to the police, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Excluded are traffic incidents resulting in death or bodily harm. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g. theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Low Income Incidence
Low income incidence is the ratio (prevalence) of families and unattached individuals in low income (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals. Statistics Canada has set Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs) to be the income level at which 54.7% or greater of income after tax is being spent on food, shelter and clothing. The same LICO is used across Canada but is stratified by family size and urban area size. This measure of low income is used in absence of any official poverty measure in Canada. Families are defined as two or more related persons sharing a dwelling unit; unattached individuals are persons either living alone or with other unrelated person(s).

Income Assistance Recipients
Income assistance recipients are the number of persons 0 to 64 years of age receiving Basic BC Benefits expressed as a percentage of the population 0 to 64 years. Excluded are Disabled Persons, Children Living in the Home of a Relative and OAS/Seniors. Data does not include Aboriginal People living on reserve.

Employment Insurance Recipients
Employment insurance recipients are the number of persons 19 to 64 years of age receiving Employment Insurance expressed as a percentage of the population 19 to 64 years.

Topic Boxes

Cardiovascular System Mortality Rate
The number of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system (cardiovascular-diseases of the heart and stroke) as the underlying cause of death per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population.

Age Standardized Mortality Rate
A summary of age adjusted death rates by age and gender, which have been standardized to a "standard" population (1991 Canada Census) for the purpose of rate comparisons between genders, different time periods or different geographic locations. The ASMR is the theoretical number of deaths that would occur per 10,000 population, if the specific population had the same age structure as the standard population.

Secondary School Completion by School District
The school completion rate is the number of students entering Grade 8 who graduate within six years.

Aboriginal Identity
The Aboriginal Identity population refers to those people who reported having: 1) North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit identity and/or Registered Indian status as defined by the *Indian Act* and/or Band membership.

Status Indian
Status Indians are one part of the broad group of First Nations people in British Columbia. There is considerable interest in the health status of First Nations people whether Status, Non-Status or Métis, but in most cases, relevant data exist only for Status Indians. In order to analyze the characteristics of any group or population, there needs to be a way to clearly define group membership and identify the events (births, deaths, hospitalizations, etc.) that occur in that group. Status Indians were the only First Nations group that could be identified.

D. Data Tables

Economy, Innovation and Education

RPI1: Employment rate (employment to population ratio, 15 to 64 year olds)										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	71.0	71.8	71.3	70.5	69.8	68.7	69.7	71.0	69.8	69.8
Victoria CMA	73.2	72.8	71.9	70.0	71.7	69.1	72.8	73.2	70.5	69.6
Regional BC	68.1	69.1	69.4	68.5	69.3	68.4	68.4	68.5	67.8	67.9
BC	70.0	70.8	70.6	69.6	69.7	68.6	69.4	70.2	69.1	69.1
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI2: Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, $1992										
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver CMA	14,407	14,375	14,210	13,895	13,790	13,919	14,056	14,265	14,719	15,122
Victoria CMA	12,768	13,130	13,036	12,780	12,546	12,625	12,676	[illegible]	13,346	13,769
Regional BC	11,542	11,605	11,762	11,524	11,386	11,346	11,429	11,401	11,646	11,800
BC	13,049	13,095	13,069	12,790	12,661	12,717	12,832	12,953	13,327	13,639
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI3: Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita, $1992										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Vancouver CMA	4,709	3,993	4,123	3,775	3,975	4,049	4,114	4,108	3,657	3,647
Victoria CMA	830	757	804	696	633	715	755	809	789	936
Regional BC	13,733	11,579	11,688	12,461	13,661	14,887	13,423	13,299	12,749	14,606
BC	8,188	6,926	7,034	7,200	7,822	8,394	7,806	7,733	7,248	8,000
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI4: Retail Sales Per Capita, $1992										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	7,587	8,035	8,498	8,133	7,974	7,737	7,603	7,788	7,889	8,056
Victoria CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Regional BC	6,812	7,168	6,988	7,087	7,606	7,350	7,499	7,868	8,285	8,558
BC	7,191	7,592	7,728	7,601	7,788	7,543	7,551	7,827	8,083	8,301
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI5: Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	12.2	11.4	8.1	8.1	8.2	6.0	4.3	4.0	5.2	6.3
Victoria CMA	8.6	7.4	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.0	4.2	2.7	3.9	4.2
Regional BC	12.5	10.6	6.7	6.7	7.2	4.2	3.8	3.2	3.1	4.2
BC	12.0	10.7	7.2	7.1	7.4	5.0	4.1	3.6	4.2	5.3
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI6: Non-Residential Building Permits Per Capita $1992										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	560	508	540	534	543	564	493	538	488	441
Victoria CMA	576	375	447	315	331	333	626	339	442	464
Regional BC	478	415	423	412	369	365	417	379	410	251
BC	526	457	482	464	452	462	472	456	452	365
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI7: High school graduates as a percentage of the 18 year old population.										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	66.9	69.7	72.1	73.0	75.0	75.7	76.5	75.6	76.7	79.8
Victoria CMA*	58.0	62.5	64.6	65.7	66.6	66.2	67.5	70.6	69.0	77.7
Regional BC	64.4	67.6	67.8	66.8	70.5	74.1	79.2	78.9	76.1	71.9
BC	65.1	68.2	69.6	69.7	72.4	74.3	76.9	76.6	75.9	76.1
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI8: Percent of Population (Ages 25 to 54) with University Completion										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	21.2	22.8	22.4	24.1	22.4	25.1	24.9	25.4	25.0	27.6
Victoria CMA	21.0	23.8	24.6	20.8	24.7	23.0	26.8	26.8	25.0	23.5
Regional BC	9.7	10.5	10.7	11.8	12.7	11.7	12.2	13.2	12.1	12.5
BC	16.5	17.9	17.9	18.9	18.8	19.7	20.1	20.8	20.1	21.7
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI9: Employment in Natural and Applied Sciences & Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.4	7.5	7.0	6.9	6.6
Victoria CMA	5.9	5.3	5.5	5.9	6.4	6.9	5.5	8.0	8.3	7.5
Regional BC	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.6
BC	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.7	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI10: Business Incorporations less Bankruptcies Per 1,000 Population										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	8.9	9.5	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	6.3	6.8
Victoria CMA	4.5	4.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.4
Regional BC	3.4	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5
BC	6.2	6.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.5	4.8
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

Environment, Health and Society

RPI11: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations (µg/m3)							
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver	14.8	15.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.3	13.8
Langley	13.6	13.0	12.4	11.2	11.8	12.3	12.5
Campbell River	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.7	11.6	12.4
Kamloops	17.3	17.9	16.9	13.1	15.0	14.1	14.2
Kelowna	19.2	17.4	16.2	15.5	16.7	13.0	14.2
Prince George	22.0	24.2	20.1	20.2	22.7	17.9	18.0

RPI11: Air Quality - Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations (µg/m3)		
	2001	2002
Vancouver	5.3	5.8
Langley	n/a	n/a
Campbell River	n/a	n/a
Kamloops	5.3	6.7
Kelowna	5.6	6.0
Prince George	9.4	9.2
Victoria	5.9	7.1

Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada

RPI12: Wastewater Treatment, Secondary and Tertiary				
	1991	1994	1996	1999
GVRD & LFV - Secondary	9.1	10.4	9.8	57.4
Victoria - Secondary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regional BC - Secondary	32.6	28.8	28.8	31.3
Regional BC - Tertiary	13.1	14.3	13.2	15.0

Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada

RPI13: Cancer Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Population 45 Years and Older										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.5
Victoria CMA	6.9	6.8	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2
Regional BC	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.3
BC	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI14: Life Expectancy at Birth (Years - Both Sexes, Two Year Averages)										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	78.5	79.0	79.0	79.2	79.6	79.8	80.3	80.8	81.3	81.5
Victoria CMA	78.9	78.9	79.5	79.6	79.6	79.6	80.6	80.9	80.5	80.9
Regional BC	78.0	78.2	78.3	78.4	78.6	78.9	79.3	79.6	80.0	79.8
BC	78.3	78.6	78.7	78.9	79.2	79.4	79.9	80.3	80.7	80.7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

RPI15: Low Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams) Births as a Percent of Live Births										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	5.2	5.6	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.0	5.4
Victoria CMA	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.7	5.4	4.6	4.8	5.8
Regional BC	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.2	4.8	4.9	5.1
BC*	5.3	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.3
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI16: Personal and Property Crime Rate (Incidents Per 100 population)										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	11.0	10.7	11.2	11.7	10.2	9.5	8.9	8.4	8.4	8.2
Victoria CMA	9.3	8.9	8.6	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.7
Regional BC	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.3	7.8	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.4
BC	10.1	9.8	10.0	10.1	9.2	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.7
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI17: Percentage of Families & Unattached Individuals Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs										
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Vancouver CMA	20.4	22.4	20.7	19.1	22.4	21.7	19.7	21.4	19.6	19.4
Victoria CMA	18.8	16.1	21.9	18.9	15.1	16.1	15.4	14.6	16.9	15.3
Regional BC	9.3	9.8	10.1	10.3	13.7	13.7	11.5	12.6	12.0	13.5
BC	15.8	16.8	16.6	15.6	18.1	17.7	15.7	17.1	16.3	16.6
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

Supplemental Information

Development Region

RPI1 - SI: Employment Rate by Development Region									
Development Region	Abbr.	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	57.5	56.4	57.9	56.4	58.7	57.9	54.0	54.8
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	62.2	61.1	61.0	60.3	60.7	61.5	61.0	61.6
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	55.4	55.9	56.6	56.0	55.1	56.0	55.5	53.7
Kootenay	KN	59.3	54.8	54.1	57.7	56.7	57.8	57.9	54.5
Cariboo	CB	63.8	67.1	63.7	62.8	62.2	60.7	61.3	60.4
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	65.9	68.4	67.6	62.4	62.2	63.7	63.8	62.3
Northeast	NE	71.4	69.2	69.8	66.5	64.6	67.8	69.0	69.7
British Columbia		60.7	60.0	60.1	59.2	59.7	60.2	59.2	59.4
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.									

RPI2 - SI: Taxfiler's Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region											
Development Region	Abbr.	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	12,045	12,284	12,301	11,937	11,712	11,703	11,616	11,624	12,017	12,394
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	13,987	13,966	13,820	13,510	13,388	13,500	13,634	13,847	14,303	14,652
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	10,794	11,112	11,230	10,818	10,656	10,611	10,757	10,994	11,070	11,288
Kootenay	KN	11,644	11,325	11,518	11,298	11,187	11,179	12,013	11,451	11,472	11,939
Cariboo	CB	12,911	13,197	13,532	13,508	13,582	13,550	13,472	13,270	13,475	13,308
North Coast	NC	12,541	12,341	12,589	12,614	12,721	12,692	12,189	12,085	13,152	12,513
Nechako	NK	12,139	11,997	12,473	12,428	12,382	12,427	12,611	12,272	12,796	12,646
Northeast	NE	13,432	12,570	12,979	14,319	14,223	14,052	14,639	14,577	13,999	14,728
British Columbia		13,049	13,095	13,069	12,790	12,661	12,717	12,832	12,953	13,327	13,639
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

Health Authority

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate by Health Authority (per 10,000 population)											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Interior	IN	17.5	17.2	15.9	17.0	16.1	16.4	16.8	15.4	15.9	16.4
Fraser	FR	17.3	16.7	17.4	17.7	17.0	16.9	16.6	15.8	16.1	15.3
Vancouver Coastal	VC	16.1	16.5	16.2	15.6	16.0	15.9	15.5	14.7	14.3	14.3
Vancouver Island	VI	18.9	19.0	17.2	17.2	18.2	16.8	16.5	16.9	16.6	16.9
Northern	NO	18.5	19.9	19.1	19.3	18.2	17.5	18.7	17.6	18.6	18.1
British Columbia		17.4	17.4	16.9	17.0	16.9	16.6	16.4	15.8	15.8	15.7
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Rate by Health Authority (per 10,000 population)											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Interior	IN	23.8	23.3	23.2	22.4	22.0	21.3	20.4	19.2	18.7	18.2
Fraser	FR	25.3	24.6	23.9	24.3	22.3	22.0	21.0	19.5	18.8	17.3
Vancouver Coastal	VC	23.1	22.2	21.2	21.5	20.5	20.4	19.1	17.6	16.7	16.9
Vancouver Island	VI	23.4	22.6	22.3	23.0	21.1	20.3	20.6	18.1	18.6	16.8
Northern	NO	27.8	24.3	24.4	26.3	23.3	25.3	23.8	23.0	20.9	19.9
British Columbia		24.1	23.3	22.8	23.1	21.6	21.2	20.4	18.8	18.3	17.4
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

RPI15 - SI: Low Weight Births (percent) by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Interior	IN	5.0	4.6	5.1	5.3	4.7	5.1	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.5
Fraser	FR	4.7	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.2
Vancouver Coastal	VC	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.7	5.5	4.6	5.3
Vancouver Island	VI	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.4
Northern	NO	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.1
British Columbia		5.0	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

Other

RPI17 - SI: Percent of Population 19-64 Years Receiving Employment Insurance Benefits										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	5.2	4.3	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.6	3.0
Victoria CMA	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.7
Regional BC	7.7	6.4	5.4	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.5
BC	6.1	5.1	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.6
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada.										

RPI17 - SI: Percent of Population 0 - 64 years Receiving Basic BC Benefits (Income Assistance)										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vancouver CMA	8.9	9.2	9.3	8.1	6.8	5.9	5.2	4.6	4.2	3.4
Victoria CMA	8.9	9.4	9.9	8.8	7.4	6.4	5.8	5.4	4.9	3.7
RBC	10.9	11.4	11.8	10.6	9.0	8.3	7.8	7.2	6.9	5.3
BC	9.7	10.1	10.4	9.2	7.7	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.4	4.1
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada.										

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